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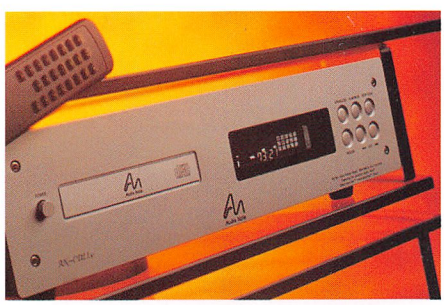

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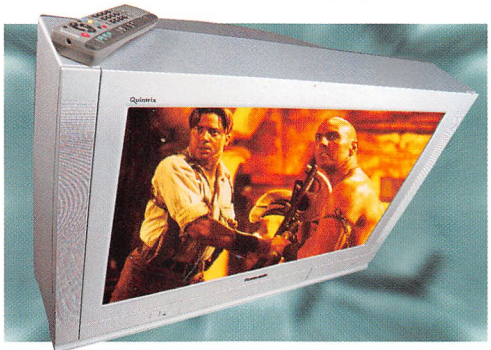

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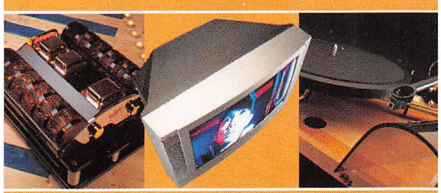

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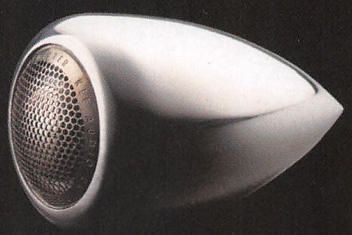
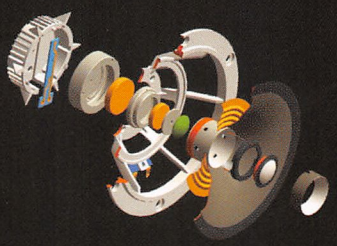
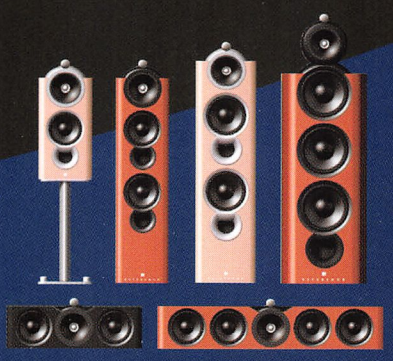


Aluminium faraday loop in centre of bass unit

UNI-Q® exploded view





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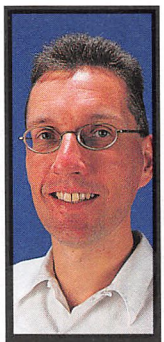
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

DECEMBER 2001



Andy Clough
Editor

Bass. We know you love the stuff, judging by the letters and phone calls we get, so this month's issue is dedicated to getting more of it. We've rounded up a selection of speakers, subwoofers, CD players and amplifers that love to go low, starting with our *Supertest* of floorstanding speakers on p36. The great news is that adding more bass to your system needn't cost a fortune, as our sensational £200 *Supertest* winner proves.

Of course, bass isn't only essential for enjoying your music, it's a critical part of home cinema too. Those action-packed movies gain extra impact with a good sub going, but setting up a surround sound system correctly is a complicated business. That's why we've put together a step-by-step guide to home cinema (see p52), to guide you through the process. Good luck!

'Adding more bass needn't cost a fortune'

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

P.6

The Marantz PM4000 amplifier was a cracker, winning a Best Buy Award in 2000. Its successor, the £160 PM4200, improves on a winning formula. It's a star!

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

Top tunes for testing this month's batch of hi-fi and AV kit. Great new albums from Macy Gray and Ryan Adams, plus horror galore on DVD

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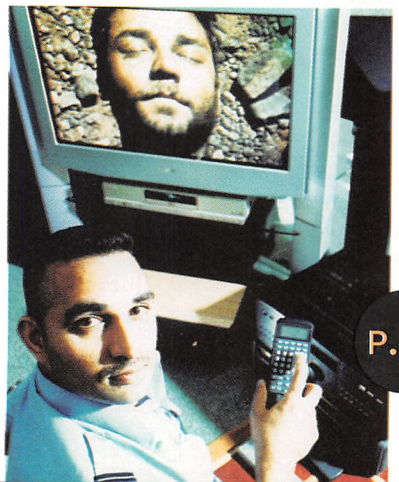

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READER RESCUE

Our man from the RAF wants to add home cinema surround sound to his hi-fi, but the kit must be easy to transport as he flies around the globe. A one-box AV receiver seems best...

HELP, HITS, HINTS

Friday telephone helpline

Looking for that personal touch when it comes to some hi-fi help? Every Friday afternoon between 3.30-5.30pm our reviewers take to the telephones to solve your hi-fi horrors. Just call 020 8267 5900.

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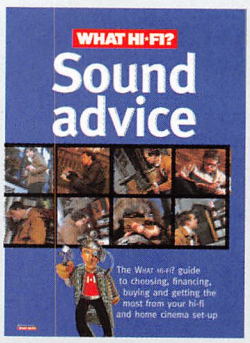
Why not visit our website? Find out what's in the latest issue, check out the best bargains on CDs and DVDs, browse through our online Buying Guide or seek advice and exchange gossip with fellow audio folk.

Recommendations you can trust

Sussing out your system shortlist? We've made it easy with our bulging Buying Guide, which is now bigger and better than ever: more sections, more pages and more kit. We've expanded the home cinema section, too, to include DVD players and TVs.

Best Buys at a glance

To make that set-up shortlist even easier to compile, each section of the Buying Guide now has a rundown and pictures of our favourite kit.



Financing, fitting, connecting and correcting your kit

The road to sonic satisfaction can be a long and bewildering one, but with our 'Helpline' hints and buying, financing and installation tips, *Sound Advice* will hold your hand and see you safely to the gates of hi-fi heaven.

What our star ratings mean

★★★★★ Award-winning Product of the Year or Best Buy

★★★★☆ Great sound and value for money: well worth a listen

★☆☆☆☆ Say no more

★★★★★ The best-sounding product at its price: a *Supertest* winner

★★★☆☆ Average performance but not outstanding

★★★★★ One of the best available at the price

★★☆☆☆ Disappointing: we'd expect better sound

Products are tested against peers in their price ranges and are awarded stars on a sound-per-pound basis. Older products' star ratings may drop when they're tested against new rivals

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FIRST TESTS Speakers from Arcaydis, Opera and Monitor Audio: TVs from Toshiba, Loewe and Samsung; Marantz's budget amp champ; home cinema in a box from Sony and Pioneer; Denon's multi-talented AV receiver; and a super-slim DVD player from Pioneer **6**

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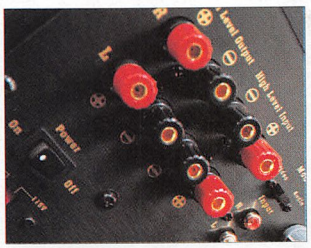
SPEAKER SUPERTEST

Looking for a bass boost? Our roundup of highly affordable floorstanders reveals the best £200 bargains, guaranteed to give your system more muscle. We pick the good from the bad, and the winner is a stunner



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SUBWOOFERS

OK, so your speakers go low, but not quite low enough. We have the answer: a selection of scintillating subwoofers to make the earth move. Whether for music or movies, these bass boxes will do the trick

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HOME CINEMA

Putting together a home cinema system can be a daunting task, but our step-by-step guide will soothe away the pain. Whether connecting a DVD player to a TV, or creating a full rig, we tell you what's what

Marantz revamps winning amp

Marantz PM4200
Stereo amplifier £160
★★★★★

For Well-balanced, tight, punchy delivery; solidly built and specified

Against Nothing of note... not at this price anyway

Verdict Only got £160 to spend on a stereo amplifier? If so, this Marantz could be the one for you

It's tough for a manufacturer to revamp an established product, and when that piece of kit is an Award-winner like Marantz's PM4000 it's even harder. After all, for the original you've sourced the best components and spent ages tuning and tinkering to get it to sound as good as possible, so making further improvements may be tricky.

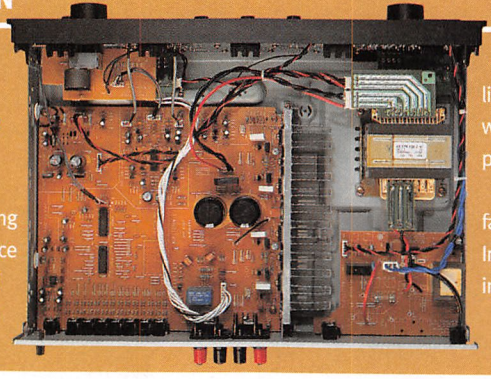
But at most price points – and especially at this budget level – trends and reputations are fickle things, and the market demands new models annually, or at least significant upgrades. It may be erroneous to think that if it's new it must be better, but it's hard to change people's perception in this respect.

And so the PM4000 has become the PM4200. Improvements include upgrades to the power supply, and earthing arrangements, plus capacitor changes in both the pre- and power amp sections. But otherwise Marantz has stuck with what was a solid and successful formula first time around.

So what we have here is a very impressively built, attractive looking budget amplifier. It's pretty chunky, but to our eyes is good looking beyond its price tag, even though it has more than its fair share of knobs and buttons on its black, well-finished fascia. These include tone and balance controls, plus the all-important switch to override them. There's also a record selector, a loudness button and a headphone socket.

Round the back there's an equally impressive selection of connection options: three line level inputs, two line level recording loops, a phono stage

WHAT MARANTZ HAS PACKED IN



Hi-fi lore has long held that a basic amp held the route to sonic enlightenment: remove the remote, ditch the sockets and cut down on the frills, and you'd produce the cleanest possible signal path, and with it the best sound.

The PM4200 breaks this cardinal rule, offering extensive socketry and – gasp – the convenience of remote control, yet it still manages to sound rather good. In fact, this Marantz is remarkably well-specified, with twin tape loops, three line-level connections and a phono stage, as well as binding-post speaker terminals to provide a basic 'multiroom' audio system.

A £250-£300 amp is unlikely to have more facilities, as this is about it for stereo amps. Instead, most of the extra money will go on internal upgrades like better capacitors and power supplies, which will boost the sound.

for connecting a turntable, and two sets of substantial speaker binding posts, allowing you to run a very basic multiroom set-up. The PM4200 also comes with a system remote control – something not all budget amplifiers stretch to.

So all's well and good on the evolution-not-revolution front, but what's happened to the sound quality? Well, you'll be pleased to know it's got even better. To start we listened to Ryan Adams's *The Bar Is A Wonderful Place*, one of the more easy going moments from the stunning *Gold*, and were

rewarded by a great open sounding performance. The centrally-placed piano is reproduced sweetly, and the Marantz obviously has some of the audiophile ability of its more expensive siblings. It has an impressive grasp of low level dynamics, and it picks up the subtle intonations of the piano notes in such a way as to make the performance moving and believable. However, the real star turn is the handling of the lead vocal, which is delivered in an engaging and full manner, remaining well focused and natural. The other instruments are well placed around the central performance, but are also held together impressively for an amplifier at this price.

With the more out-and-out rockers on the album, the Marantz produces a powerful performance even at high volumes, and with the opening *New York, New York* it rocks out but refuses to get either hard or aggressive. The cymbals crash convincingly throughout the track, but the upper levels of the tonal range remain clear and impressively detailed for an amp at this price-level.

Feed the PM4200 the eclectic second volume of *The Sopranos* soundtrack on CD, and it proves it can present a balanced and listenable sound no matter what you throw at it. The CD moves from the punky sounds of Cake's *Frank Sinatra* – where the bass performance is tight and particularly impressive – to Frank Sinatra's rendition of *Baubles, Bangles and Beads*, and the amp keeps pace without any cracks showing, which is surely more than any budget amplifier should be asked to do!

The PM4200 is equally at home with the classics, and the large-scale orchestration of Mahler's *Symphony No 10* is delivered with an engaging mix of verve and subtlety. Considering its budget price, the Marantz paints a lifelike image of both solo violins and massed string sections, all set in an impressively wide and detailed stereo soundstage. Also the demanding stop/start dynamics are rendered deftly and with little overhang or smearing.

No claims can be made for the PM4200 breaking new ground. However, what we can say is that this is a very impressive piece of kit with a solid, listenable sound that in many respects belies its budget status. At only £160, it's an ideal centrepiece for a good sounding starter system: it's exciting, but never harsh, it has a full balance, but is never overblown at the bottom end, and it's detailed and precise, but retains an engaging musicality. Marantz has done all that's required to ensure its entry-level amp remains highly competitive. Given the performance, five stars are guaranteed.

What it's up against

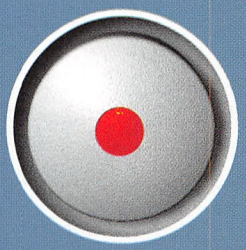
Cambridge A5 £120 ★★★★★ (July 2001)
This Award-winning budget amplifier packs a powerful punch, but is also capable of impressive subtlety at the price. Its stylishly thin silver design makes it as easy on the eye as it is on the ears.

Denon PMA-255UK £140 ★★★★☆ (July 2001)
This Denon may lack a phono stage and some of the features others at this price offer, but it makes up for this to some extent with its exciting presentation. It has great timing, and good detail, but lacks a little bit of substance.

Kenwood KAF-1030 £150 ★★★★☆ (July 2001)
A big sounding amp with oodles of punch delivered by its impressive 70 watts-per-channel power stage. But it lacks the subtlety of the best at this price, marking it out as predominately the choice of out-and-out rockers.

Small change

RECORD



Big difference

Introducing the Philips DVDR 1000: The biggest small change in DVD technology. Thanks to its red record button, you can now capture your favourite films and TV programmes in the highest digital picture and sound quality. Up to 4 hours recording per side of a Re-Writable disc.

Your recordings will play perfectly on most DVD players and the Philips DVDR 1000 will play DVD-Video movies too. This two-way compatibility is achieved without any compromise on picture quality, recording time and ease of use.

And now preserving your home movies is simply a matter of connecting your camcorder to the Philips DVDR 1000 via the i-Link digital connection. Your recording will be saved forever on DVD.

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DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDER 2001-2002
Philips DVDR1000

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DVD VIDEO
DOLBY DIGITAL
dts DIGITAL OUT
TWINWAY

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PHILIPS

Let's make things better.

MA's Babies are well-behaved

Monitor Audio Baby System
Multichannel speaker package £600
★★★★☆

For Fine styling; build; integration; good impact and scale

Against Can sound a little too forward at high volumes

Verdict Worth a good listen, and, with careful partnering, could be be ideal for many living rooms

Home cinema speakers are shrinking fast. Monitor Audio's most compact speaker system is so tiny that the company itself refers to it as The Baby System. It's available only in black, eschewing the current trend for fancy finishes, but the concept is designed to offer purchasers considerable flexibility, because you can buy different components as you need them. The company offers two-channel and five-channel set-ups, as well as individual subwoofers, so you can create a full seven-speaker, twin subwoofer system if that's what you need.

Each Baby satellite is just 20cm tall, 12cm wide and 14cm deep, and uses a 10cm MMP (which stands for Metal Matrix Polymer) midrange driver and a 25mm gold-dome tweeter. In the system we have here, two speakers handle the front channels, two the rear surround effects. There's also a matching – dedicated – centre-channel speaker. This has a slightly larger cabinet, all the better to accommodate two of the 10cm drivers, and, naturally, the same design of tweeter.

Nice design touches on each cabinet include threaded inserts to accept mounting brackets or pole stands, and decent binding posts, which allows for the use of better-quality speaker cable. The whole set-up is easily driven, at 6-8 Ohms impedance, and as good sensitivity, ranging from 87 to 88dB/W/m, so even a low-powered surround receiver – not that there are many of those around these days – should have no problems with this package.

As is ever the case with a compact speaker system, bass has to come from somewhere, and in this case, low-end responsibilities fall to the ASW100 active subwoofer. Unlike many of Monitor Audio's new subs, it uses a comparatively simple paper-cone drive unit, of 25cm diameter, rather than the more complex metal units found in some of the manufacturer's pricier designs. The subwoofer is rear-ported, and has 120W of amplification to complement the standard selection of inputs and controls.

So, how does it all sound? First and foremost, you need to spend a little time getting the set-up right (see panel). A lengthy run-in is essential too – Monitor Audio's metal drivers have always demanded a good thrashing to loosen them up. That done, this is a fine-sounding little system, able to generate some meaty dynamics with ease. The subwoofer has ample guts during the biggest *Terminator 2* moments, while the integration between subwoofer and satellites is pretty much spot on. The balance is still slightly on the light side – not bright, but not exactly rich either – yet at least this ensures ample clarity.

Integration, especially across the front three speakers, is fine too: despite their modest dimensions, the Babies have no difficulty in creating a cohesive, three-dimensional soundfield.

Where's the catch? Well, listen in stereo, and you might find that crisp balance a little too intrusive with some recordings, notably Ryan Adams' *New York*, which sounds too hard for our ears. A warm-sounding amp or receiver (such as the Arcam AVR100) would help, and, in other regards, this package does a highly commendable job.

HOW TO SET UP SURROUND SPEAKERS

Like every subwoofer/satellite system, the key to getting the most from the Baby system is to ensure you've got the correct speaker "sizes" on your surround receiver or amp. The Babies go down to 90Hz, so set your speakers to "small", which, in most amps, applies the standard 120Hz crossover recommended in Dolby Digital 5.1. If you can go for a lower crossover (some designs have 80, 100 and 120Hz options) then do so.

LEADING RIVALS

KEF KHT2005 £800 ★★★★★ (June 01) Outstanding. Fine looks and build, exceptional performance for a system of this type. Product of the Year

Energy Take 5 £600 ★★★★★ (August 01) Exceptionally small, well-made and capable, although like the Baby System, not ideal in stereo

Pioneer sound.vision.soul

DVD VIDEO

DVD home cinema system - as sweet to the eye as the ear. Pioneer's digital home entertainment system, the NS-DV88, offers the sound and vision experience of your dreams right in your living room. It delivers powerful, pure 265-watt sound from its five satellite speakers with matched subwoofer, as well as cinema to die for. And if its sounds don't totally blow you away, its steaming good looks will. What bigger turn-on could you want?

DVD PLAYERS

DVD SYSTEMS

DVD PORTABLES

DVD CAR ENTERTAINMENT

DVD CAR NAVIGATION

DVD RECORDERS*

http://www.pioneer.co.uk

*Available end 2001

32in Toshiba is a sensible buy

Toshiba 32Z13B
32in Nicam TV £900
★★★★★

For Good picture; strong stereo sound; attractive styling

Against Nothing significant

Verdict A high-quality "big-brand" TV for sensible money – well worth considering for your home cinema

If you have or are planning to build a modestly-priced home cinema set-up, Toshiba's 32Z13B could well be for you. A 32in flat-screen set, it's both relatively affordable (some online retailers sell it for £750) and blessed with high performance. Most significantly, it's a Nicam-only design, so you're not paying for speakers and processing that you don't need.

Although clad in the trendy styling of Toshiba's flagship sets, the 32Z13B is a relatively "old-school" 50Hz design, with little of the digital image-processing technology that some rivals offer. NTSC playback is on hand, to give you the best results when you're replaying imported DVDs, and a flat picture tube offers low image distortion and minimal reflection. Two Scarts are provided, but one notable disappointment is that no component video inputs are fitted.

The Toshiba offers a decent level of audio performance, by virtue of reasonable amplifier power (20W) and a bass boost mode. Dialogue is clear, and there's respectable bass weight and energy on hand during the more dynamic sequences in *Terminator 2*.

The real deal here, though, is picture performance, and the Toshiba excels. Colours look full and rich, images have strongly-defined borders, and there's a good sense of three-dimensionality to the picture. The resulting image is thoroughly cinematic.

So, the verdict? Very good, basically. The 32ZB13B is the right price, the right size, delivers good performance and is well built. If you're looking for a sensibly-priced widescreen TV to add to a home cinema system, you won't go wrong here.

LEADING RIVALS

Sony KV-28LS35E £850 ★★★☆☆
(Sept 2001) Fine styling, picture and features – but only 28in, so pricey

Hitachi C32WF727N £1200
★★★★★ (Jan 2001) Outstandingly sophisticated, highly-capable set

Gorgeous Operas major on midrange

Opera SP-1
Loudspeakers £525
★★★★☆

For Beautiful cabinet; solid build; entertaining sound

Against Quality of rivals; small size means bass is limited

Verdict These Operas are gorgeous speakers with an involving and entertaining performance

The Italian-made Operas look very classy for the money, but there's more to their elegantly curved cabinet design than just aesthetics: it reduces internal standing waves and so ensures a less coloured sound. The cabinets are built from solid hardwood as opposed to the MDF most rivals use, and Opera claims improved rigidity and low resonance as major advantages of this construction method.

Round the back are a chunky pair of speaker terminals. They mark a welcome change from the standard connectors most manufacturers fit.

The SP-1s are true compact speakers at just 28.5cm tall, so no matter how good their 11cm polypropylene mid/bass drivers are, these babies aren't going to shake the floorboards with bass extension. Even so, the bass is still taut and tuneful with music from Prince's *Gett Off* to the *Planet of the Apes* soundtrack.

Vocals are delivered with finesse and power, the 28mm silk-dome tweeter combining bite and subtlety to good effect.

Only when it comes to the last smidgen of resolution or dynamics do these speakers give way to the best at the price. Still, the SP-1s remain a highly enjoyable and involving listen. A sensitivity of 86dB/W/m and nominal impedance of 8ohms means that they aren't a difficult electrical load either.

Opera is to be applauded for attempting to offer something individual in a conservative market sector. Add competitive sound into the equation and the SP-1s make a deserving case for themselves. Anyone looking for a refined, high quality compact monitor should give them a try.

LEADING RIVALS

AVI Neutron III £499 (Sep 2001) ★★★★★ Tiny monitors that major on transparency and detail resolution; rarely put a foot wrong

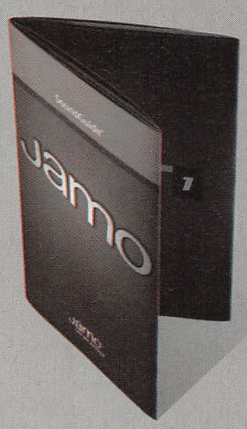
Dynaudio Audience 52 £557 (Sep 2001) ★★★★★ Standmounters that do it all; bass drive, detail and refinement in a vinyl covered package

INTEGRAL COPENHAGEN
We do understand that...
You burn with passion
Guitars shouldn't be electric
Pedro loves your tapas
There is no such thing as too colourful
Olé...
Now you need the speakers to match

The best speakers are the ones who listen

D 590

The SoundGuide®



What is good sound?

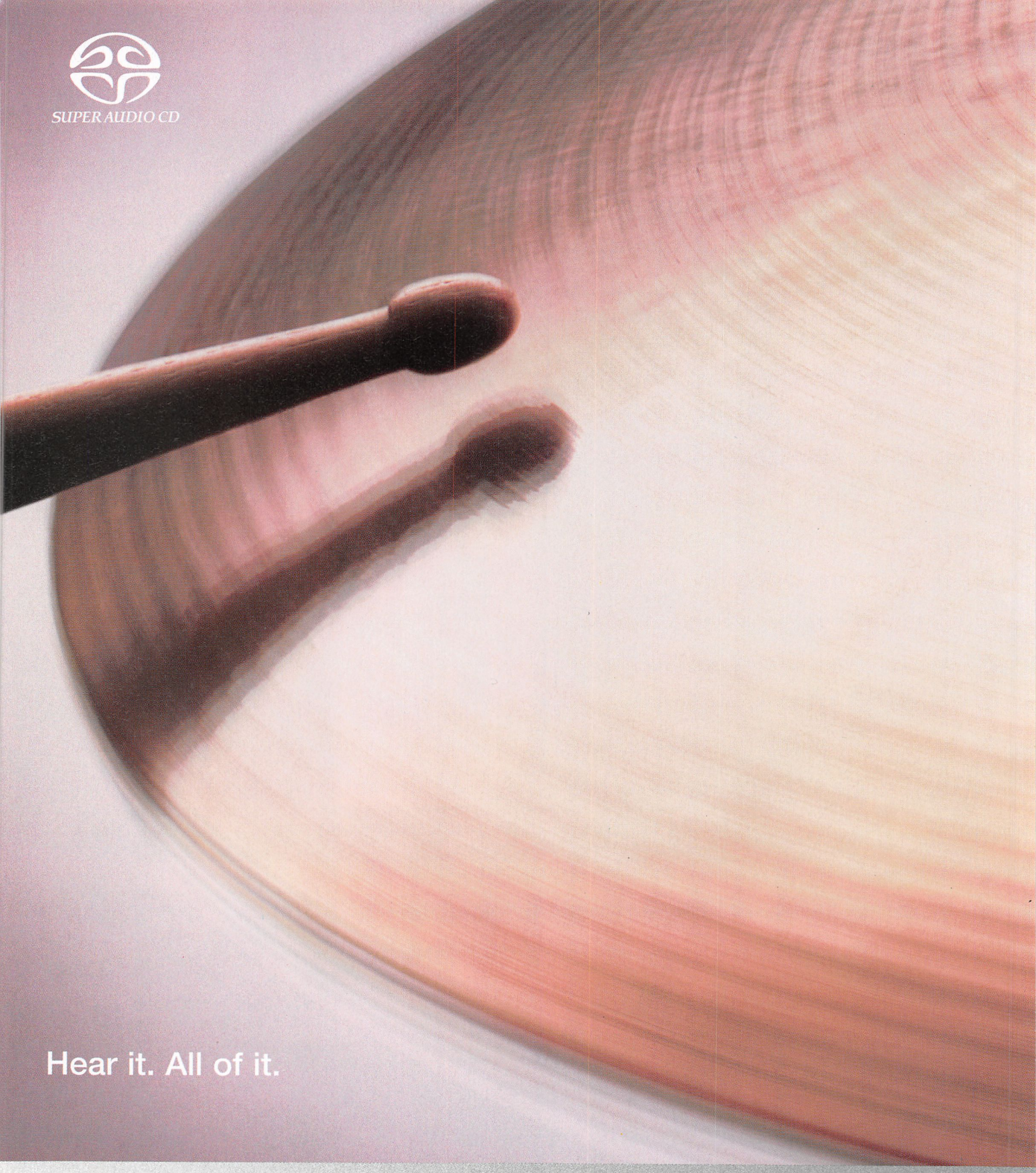
There is no easy answer. Good sound is individual. It is shaped by personal choices like room size and music style. Whatever your listening needs, there's a sound solution to meet them.

Jamo has developed the SoundGuide, an advanced resource that leads you to your perfect sound solution.
We listen to you before you listen to us.

For further information, call Jamo UK on 01788 556 777 or visit your local Jamo dealer.
Tell us what you want. We'll listen.

www.**jamo**.com

Jamo®
Let's get personal



Sony Super Audio CD.

With Super Audio CD, you'll hear sounds almost beyond the range of human hearing. How? Because Super Audio CD uses completely new technology called Direct Stream Digital (DSD), which gives you sound quality unmatched by conventional CD systems, bringing the finest details into sharp relief. With Super Audio CD's new multichannel capabilities this sonic purity can now surround you, recreating the atmosphere of a live performance or recording. But Super Audio CD is not restricted to pure Super Audio CD players alone – Sony has now incorporated this breakthrough sound technology in selected DVD-Video players and Digital Audio Video systems. So if you truly want to hear what you are listening to, listen to Super Audio CD from Sony.

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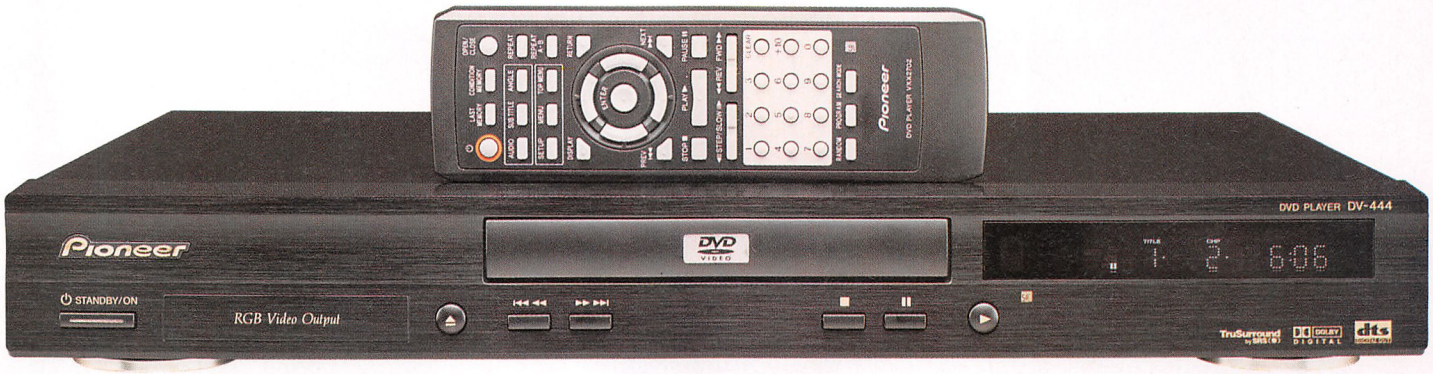
SONY



Super-slim DVD prefers films

Pioneer DV-444
DVD-Video player £300
★★★★☆

For Slimline looks; great picture and fine movie sound; plays MP3s

Against No great shakes for CD playback; no region hack

Verdict A fine player – almost a great one. It's just a pity Pioneer blew it on music playback

Pioneer's messengers of choice have managed to come up with the following to describe the company's new DV-444 entry-level DVD model: apparently "it proves that thin is most definitely in". They have a point: the player is by far the most compact we've seen, its 5.5cm height designed to ensure it will fit in TV stands along with VCRs, satellite boxes and the like. It also comes in silver to match the current trend for silver TVs.

We like it, and it's great to see a manufacturer eschewing the foolish old belief that consumers want big, bulky, button-heavy bits of kit. The DV-444 has just seven buttons on its fascia: everything else is relegated to a comprehensive, but easily comprehensible, remote control handset, which is also nicely balanced to sit in the hand. Little things matter...

To the rear the Pioneer has the usual suite of connections – composite, S-video and RGB Scart for vision output, plus analogue line outs and optical and coaxial digital feeds for audio – but there's no Scart loop-through for a VCR, as found on some rival machines. The Pioneer also supports CD-R/RW playback, and can even handle home-made discs of MP3 files, a facility increasingly found on players of this kind.

However, it's worth noting that there's no region hack – this is resolutely a Region 2 machine unless you have it modified, although at the time of writing we found a "chipped" version for sale on the internet for £200.

The Pioneer DV-444 has a comprehensive suite of picture controls, but the image is pretty remarkable straight from the box, with good contrast, fine colour saturation and crisp definition with film sources as diverse as the slightly bleached palette of *Saving Private Ryan* and the almost cartoon hues of *Bedazzled*. The image is never overblown, and the impression is always of a natural balance.

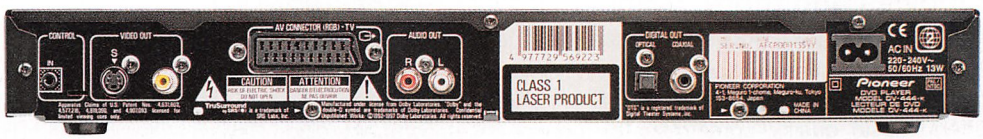
The sound, too, is very good indeed, but then the player has no onboard decoding, so the quality of the receiver with which it's used will have the greater influence on Dolby Digital/DTS performance. For all that the Pioneer clearly delivers a clean datastream – our reference TAG McLaren Audio AV32R/100X5R processor and amplifier really got their teeth into what they were receiving, giving big, dramatic effects with the likes of *Jurassic Park*, and a lovely warm sense of intimacy with movies such as *Miss Congeniality*.

OK, here comes the "but", and it's a major one. The Pioneer is no great shakes when it comes to playing music, proving that the use of a high-speed high-bit converter – 192kHz/24-bit in this case – is no guarantee of better stereo sound. Play demanding music such as Spiritualized's current set and the player struggles with the massed forces of *Stop Your Crying*, delivering a wall of sound that's messy rather than Spectoresque, and sounding decidedly compressed. Spin something a little more open, but harder-driving, such as the latest Jamiroquai CD, and the same kind of effects are noted. Rhythms are smeared and even a shade slow, and vocals lack bite and character, making the whole experience disappointing.

That's especially true given the past ability of Pioneer in the CD field, and means that while the DV-444 is very fine indeed if you only want to play movies in surround sound, as an all-rounder it leaves something to be desired. Yes, it's reasonably priced, but for a company with a hi-fi heritage its stereo performance needs more work. Several rivals are better in this respect, and get our vote.

UNDER THE BONNET OF THE 444

The DV-444 is designed to be compatible not just with recordable CD formats, but also DVD-R/RW discs made in video mode on machines such as the company's own recorders. The 24-bit/192kHz audio DAC is sourced from Burr-Brown, while the video system used 54MHz/10bit conversion and a 27MHz clock to reduce jitter and picture noise. The picture can be adjusted for contrast, hue, colour saturation and sharpness, these parameters being accessed via on-screen menus, but as already mentioned the player does look very good in "standard" settings. Finally, a remote link is provided so that the player can be "driven" by one of the company's AV receivers.



LEADING RIVALS

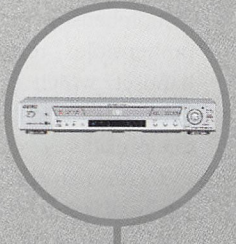
Toshiba SD-210E £230 ★★★★★ (Awards 2001) Toshiba takes on budget Chinese players and wins hands down. A Best Buy in our Awards 2001

Marantz DV4100SE £400 ★★★★★ (Awards 2001) £100 more than the slimline Pioneer, but CD playback is far superior. Our Product of the Year

DVD VIDEO™ SUPER AUDIO CD

The movies and more. Sony DVD with Super Audio CD.

Sony DVD-Video delivers the kind of remarkable picture clarity that brings movies to life. You don't just watch – you experience. And what Sony DVD-Video does for your eyes, Sony Super Audio CD does for your ears. While still allowing you to play your existing CDs, Super Audio CD offers music quality unmatched by conventional compact disc. New multichannel technology allows you to listen to music recorded for more than two speakers, providing levels of sonic purity that surround you. Combined, they take home entertainment to an entirely new level. Sony DVD-Video DVP-NS700V, with Super Audio CD. A star is born.



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SONY

Denon's AV receiver does it all

Denon AVR-1802
Multichannel receiver £450
★★★★★

For Outstanding sound; build; features and usability

Against Nothing significantly wrong, considering the price

Verdict A cracking buy in the budget receiver arena; does everything well at the price

We've been inundated with new home cinema products from Denon of late – the company appears hell-bent on gaining dominance in this sector, and it's succeeding. Denon's mighty AVC-A1SE (£2500) is comfortably superior to its Yamaha rival, the DSP-AX1, while the £850 AVR-3802 positively flattens Yamaha's £800 RX-V1000RDS. Now, the AVR-1802 completes the job – because this new Denon receiver is good enough to mount a serious challenge to this year's Award-winning Yamaha RX-V620RDS.

In common with many other Denon designs, part of the AVR-1802's success is built upon processing sophistication. Unlike its Yamaha rival, it offers Dolby Pro-Logic II decoding as a complement to Dolby Digital 5.1 and DTS 5.1 digital surround capability. This places it at a crucial advantage for computer gamers, satellite users and TV lovers, all of whom can benefit from the superior surround steering and dynamics offered by PL II.

The new Denon is well-made and surprisingly bulky. It offers ample power (80W to each speaker output) and every speaker terminal has a proper binding post, all the better to support high-quality speaker cable. An extensive roster of socketry includes a wide-bandwidth six channel input for external surround decoders (for DVD-A or SACD multichannel), preouts for every channel bar the surround outputs, and three digital inputs (two optical, one coaxial). The only thing missing is component video provision.

But socketry isn't everything, and the Denon is more than capable enough to compensate for any slight equipment shortfall. It sounds terrifically rich and full, offering a dense, textured surround soundfield with *The Exorcist*'s creepy, atmospheric score. *Terminator 2*'s powerful battle-sequence opener is suitably muscular too, even more so because the Denon is able to add the beneficial effects of a "Cinema Eq" mode, similar to that found on THX-certified equipment (see panel above). You can crank the juice up to room-shaking levels with no discernible signs of strain or stress.

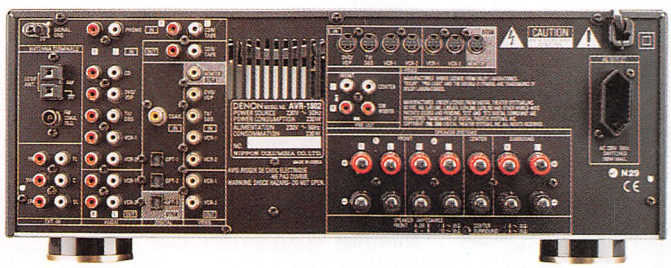
Although this is all fun and frolicsome, the Denon really stakes its claim to greatness when you switch over to analogue audio, whether in multichannel or stereo. With VHS tapes and off-air TV broadcasts, Pro-Logic II is a considerable benefit, generating good drive with the likes of *Band Of Brothers*' punchy war sequences, while switching to the same system's music mode (called, with commendable clarity, Pro-Logic II Music) can be very rewarding with CDs. By and large, the soundstage is preserved at the front of the room, with only subtle ambient information steered behind your head. It's different, if nothing else, and we rather like it.

Most importantly, the Denon continues the fine trend established by its siblings for decent stereo listening, whether from its 40-preset RDS tuner or from CD. Music has rhythm, grip and focus; while the Yamaha RX-V620RDS is good in this regard, the AVR-1802 is even better.

So it comes down to this. The AVR-1802 sounds excellent, and is well-made, well-specified and readily upgradable. Would we buy one? We think you can figure that one out for yourselves.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF CINEMA EQ MODE?

Movies are mixed to suit real cinemas, which involves filling many thousands of cubic feet with sound. Cinemas also use perforated screens, with large horn-type speakers mounted behind the screen to fire into the auditorium. Your living room, of course, isn't quite like this: your speakers are unencumbered by a screen, you aren't sitting down to watch your movies with 200 other people, and even the most palatial room is usually smaller than the average cinema. This is what the "Cinema Eq" mode tries to address; effectively, it's a brightness filter, designed to tame down the harshness of film soundtracks to make them more listenable in the home.



LEADING RIVALS

Yamaha RX-V620RDS £450 ★★★★★ (Oct 2001) This year's Award-winning surround receiver has excellent sound and features for the price

Marantz SR4200 £300 ★★★★★ (Awards 2001) Another Award winner, another fine receiver; highly affordable, and ideal for a tight budget

Simple cinema

Sony DAV-S800
Home cinema in a box £800
★★★★☆

For Style and convenience; excellent picture quality

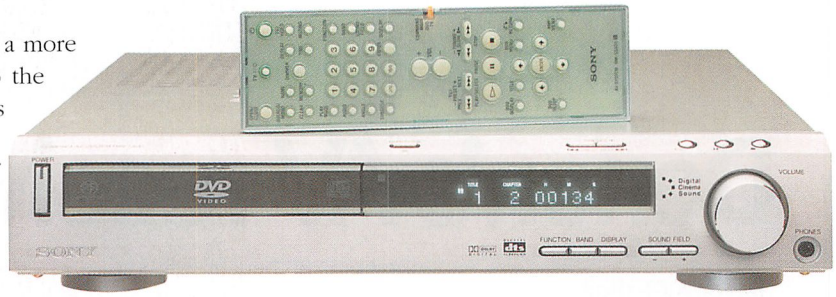
Against Lack of integration; tinny treble; expensive

Verdict Sony's latest all-in-one is great for movies but doesn't really cut it for CD playback

The market for home cinema in a box systems is growing apace as manufacturers recognise the public's desire for a subtle solution to obtaining the delights of DVD and surround sound. Sony is certainly no stranger to this market, having received many accolades for its DAV-S300 and S-500 packages.

The DAV-S800 takes a more upmarket approach to the system ethos. As well as a sturdily built yet classy amp/DVD player unit, plus five speakers and a sub, you get a full set of stunning brushed aluminium stands. The key difference between the Award-winning S-500 and this system is the extra 10W per channel, up from 40W to 50W.

Sony's also packed in the features: as well as CD and DVD playback, there's multichannel SACD support plus onboard Dolby Digital 5.1 and DTS decoding. Optical in/out connections are present, as well as both composite and S-Video picture connections, but noticeably lacking is a Scart socket. True, an adapter is supplied, but it means that viewers will still be missing out on RGB capability.



The DAV-S800's main unit houses the receiver and DVD/SACD player

That said, picture quality is striking, with vibrant colours, natural flesh-tones, convincing depth and high levels of detail. *Traffic*'s contrasting scenes are superbly rendered.

Soundtracks impress, too, from *Saving Private Ryan*'s sharp gunfire to the chilling atmospherics of *Halloween*. Good insight in the midrange means voices have warmth and prominence, so dialogue is never hard to follow. The Sony also packs plenty of punch, explosions blasting through with weight and attack.

However, when it comes to music replay, bass integration is lacking. For example, the throb of Massive Attack's *Teardrop* doesn't time exceptionally well, and the bass seems separated from the rest of the song.

The treble also falls a little short of the mark. On brighter recordings like The Strokes *Is This It?* it's paper-thin, lacking smoothness or refinement. Multichannel SACD performance is convincing in the midrange, but like CD playback is inhibited by the weak integration between the low-end and the higher frequencies. The RDS tuner also suffers from the bright treble, but the midrange is particularly well suited to classical and speech radio stations.

Sony's DAV-S800 is easy to set up, incredibly stylish and offers an exciting DVD experience. But it's not worth £200 more than the £600 DAV-S500, and its more apparent shortcomings as a CD player mean that it misses out on the full five stars.

Sony has piled on the style with a brushed aluminium finish

WHERE SHOULD YOU PUT THE SUBWOOFER?

To get the best results from a subwoofer, it's worth putting it in the right place in your room. Walls reinforce bass rather well, corners even more so. Those willing to put in that extra bit of effort could try placing the sub in the middle of the room, playing a piece of music you know well, and then walking in a circle around your room, listening to hear the moment when the bass sounds best. That's the room's "node" (often there are several), and that's where the subwoofer should go. Then match up the levels with the rest of the system, and you are ready to enjoy the rumble.

head-to-head

Pioneer NS-DV88
Home cinema in a box £700
★★★☆☆

For Hugely stylish; plenty of weight for movies

Against Poor CD playback; recessed midrange; bland picture

Verdict Despite a good effort on movie soundtracks, falls short on picture quality and music

The NS-DV88 is the successor to the Award-winning, best-selling NS-DV55, which was among the first all-in-one AV systems. The build quality of the new arrival is fantastic – the smooth wood veneer finish gives the speakers and subwoofer a sturdy feel, while the streamlined main unit offers bags of style. Like its predecessor, the NS-DV88 has a funky display: a separate unit that lends an extra hint of class.

However, the remote is plasticky and complicated. This fuss applies to the set-up, too: the speakers may be labelled, but the subwoofer's speaker terminals aren't, making the whole process a bit trial-and-error and rather time consuming.

The NS-DV88 features an RDS tuner, DTS and Dolby Digital 5.1 decoding, and offers coaxial and optical in and out, as well as two analogue ins/outs should you wish to add further components. It can also handle CD-RW discs.

Movie playback impresses, the Pioneer's 30W per channel offering plenty of punch for a system with speakers so small, and having bags of weight in the low end. The explosive opening sequence of *Saving Private Ryan* hits hard, and the scale of the sound is astounding. The soundstage created by the Pioneer is involving and dynamic, too, the pod race in *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* being conveyed with great channel steering and fine impact.

The high end is also handled well. Brighter frequencies in the mix can make the treble overbearing, but overall delivery is competent. The disappointment is the midrange. On livelier soundtracks dialogue can be drowned out, and voices sound unconvincing.

These flaws are all too obvious in CD playback. The driving guitars of Ryan Adams' *Come Pick Me Up* are lost in the mix, sapping the tune of energy and emotion, while the bass fails to integrate with the other frequencies, upsetting the balance and giving an impression of sloth. The FM/MW tuner copes fairly well with the heavy compression of Radio 1, but is less convincing with good classical music broadcasts.

Picture quality is variable: like the Sony, the Pioneer only offers composite and S-Video connections, but unlike the Sony, it doesn't impress. The colours of *The Godfather* trilogy lack contrast, flesh tones look unnatural and the level of detail is limited.

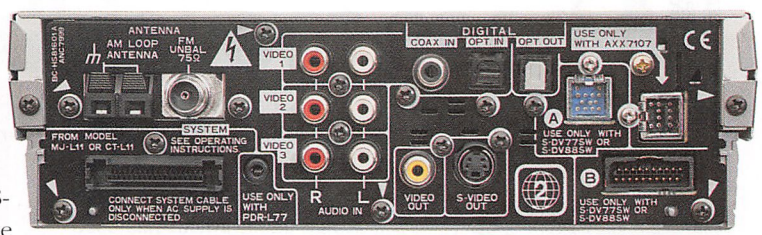
Ultimately, the NS-DV88's style and weighty movie sound is let down by a rather bland picture and lacklustre CD playback.

LEADING RIVALS

Sony DAV-S500 £600 ★★★★★
(Sept '01) A one-box marvel, great with movies and music and very compact

JVC CP100AL £700 ★★★★☆ (Oct '01)
Stylish all-in-one that's great with DVDs and respectable with music

The Pioneer combines style with features and bags of connectivity options



WHERE SHOULD YOU PUT THE SPEAKERS?

Configure your speakers correctly and you will have a home cinema dream come true, but it's easy to get things wrong. Toeing in the speakers so they fire more directly towards the listening position will help improve the sound, while the subwoofer position is also vital to get the best integration, so search the room for that sweet spot (see panel left). Once in place you must get all speakers to give the same output, by using a decibel reader.

Once the volume of each speaker is matched you'll need to set the delay times. If for some reason it is not possible to place the speakers at equal distances, delay times become all the more important. Measure the distance from your seat to each speaker, and enter it into the set-up menu. If your system doesn't have that feature, then add 1ms (in Dolby Digital) for each 30cm of difference. For example, if the front speakers are 3m from you and the rears 2.1m, the 90cm of difference would equate to 3ms of delay. For more tips, see p138.

Shearne amp must try harder

Shearne Audio Phase 2 Anniversary Amplifier £949

★★★☆☆

For Dynamic presentation; weight and authority

Against Fussy about volume setting; finish; poor remote

Verdict The Phase 2 Anniversary has the potential for greatness but needs more work

Anniversaries are an ideal reason to celebrate and generally have a good time. Shearne Audio's way of celebrating 10 years in the hi-fi business is the introduction of a number of new, suitably-named products.

The Phase 2 Anniversary is one of these, and is a development of the long running Phase 2 Reference integrated. A revised power supply and upgraded preamp section lead to claims for improved dynamics with greater insight, while a change of output transistors means a modest power hike from 55W per channel to 60W.

The Anniversary is a frill-free unit, with four line-level inputs, a single tape loop and a preamp output. Phono modules for MM and MC cartridges are extra.

LEADING RIVALS

Arcam A85 £750 ★★★★★ (Dec 2001) The Best Buy at this price point is a superbly rounded product

Roksan Caspian Mk II £795 ★★★★★ (Dec 2001) A highly capable amplifier that looks, feels and sounds great

Remote-control usage is limited to volume setting, and the handset looks like it belongs in a bargain basement bin. Neither is the amplifier's build flawless, the front panel sporting some nasty sharp edges on our sample.

However, the Shearne's sonic performance is better. It charges hard with Prince's *Gett Off*, where there's plenty of punch and rhythmic drive. Detail levels are good and the amp remains composed even when the music becomes demanding. The combination of rich midband and meaty presentation gives vocals and instruments solid presence.

But it's not all good news: the Phase 2 Anniversary could do with better coherency at low volumes. And push the amplifier to higher listening levels and the performance rapidly disintegrates into an edgy, compressed affair. High frequencies become coarse and listening ceases to be an enjoyable experience.

The Phase 2 Anniversary has the potential to be a great amplifier, but Shearne needs to put in more work for this to happen. There's not exactly a lack of decent competition at this exalted price level, and some rivals offer better sound for less dosh.

JM bass too laidback to keep up

JMLab Chorus 715 Speakers £499

★★★☆☆

For Insightful treble and great midrange; striking design

Against Despite adjustments, the laidback bass still doesn't cut it

Verdict A very relaxing listen, but can prove lacklustre with uptempo tracks

The Chorus 715s are quite striking for £499. They stand 93cm tall, and the two-and-a-half-way design with 16.5cm polyglass drivers looks impressive. However, it's important to give the 715s plenty of room. If placed close to a wall, the bass will prove too flabby and overbearing. Also, consider biwiring – it will improve the levels of clarity and enhance dynamics which, when single-wired, are far from astounding.

Once again JMLab has used an inverted titanium dome tweeter design, and once again it has achieved tremendous treble as a result. The Chorus 715s deliver Ryan Adams's *Come Pick Me Up* with great refinement, putting in a suitably delicate guitar performance and keeping the vocal smooth.

The midrange is full-bodied, with a rich approach and a sound that integrates well with the bass and treble. However the bass has a very laidback feel, which in the long term proves damaging. The tone becomes ploddy on more upbeat tunes, and unless the speakers are matched with lean, tight kit, the bassline can trip over itself trying to keep up.

The 715s are also short on transparency. When we tried a selection of amps at a variety of price points the 715s failed to reveal the full extent of the amp changes, lacking as they do articulation and neutrality.

For this sort of money there are many great speakers around – indeed, too many to give the JMLab Chorus 715s a look-in.

LEADING RIVALS

Mission 773e £400 ★★★★☆ (Mar 2001) Great all-rounder with great bass extension and impressive clarity

Dynaudio Audience 42 £400 ★★★★★ (Mar 2001) Superb performer with spectacular timing and stacks of punch

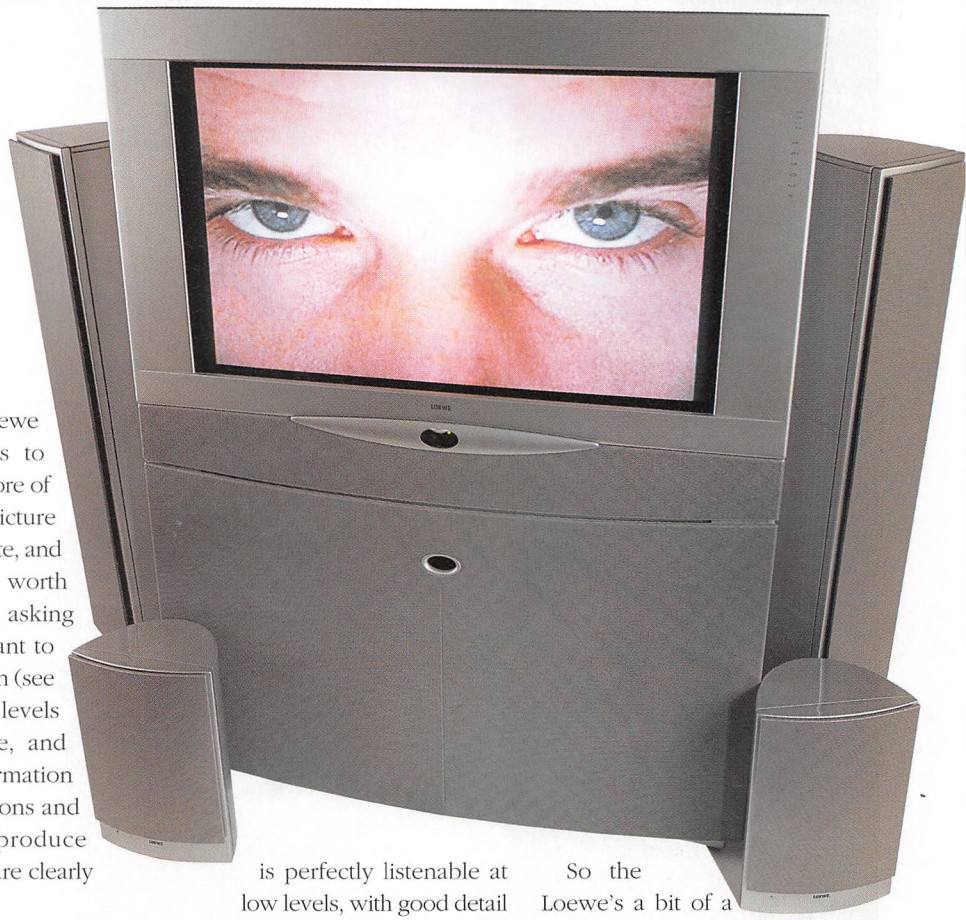
Loewe best seen but not heard

Loewe Aconda 9581 Select
Surround sound TV £5150
★★★☆☆

For Very stylish; excellent picture quality; beautifully built

Against Expensive; sound not up to quality of vision; tonally bright

Verdict A very stylish package with a great TV set at its centre. Let down by its sound quality



The centrepiece of this set-up is a stunningly attractive television: a gorgeous 32in flat screen model in what the German manufacturer calls Light Stratos Metallic, but we'll call silver. It's also available in High Gloss Black, Stratos Metallic Blue and Stratos Metallic Red. The set comes fully loaded with 100Hz technology, Dolby Digital decoding and a host of picture enhancement features.

But the TV is just for starters, as this – admittedly pricey – complete home cinema system also includes a rather attractive stand, two large floorstanding front speakers and two stand-mount rear speakers.

Anybody unboxing this system at home will certainly feel like they're getting their money's worth. Every item is solid and well crafted, and fitting it all together is pretty straightforward as well. All the speakers are active, so you'll need a good selection of plug sockets around the room, but the connections between them are single wires, which cuts back on unattractive cabling lying all over the living room floor.

In use the Loewe Aconda proves to be a little bit more of a mixed bag. Picture quality is first rate, and the TV is well worth the individual asking price if you want to buy it on its own (see panel). Detail levels are impeccable, and low-level information such as reflections and difficult-to-reproduce diagonal lines are clearly rendered.

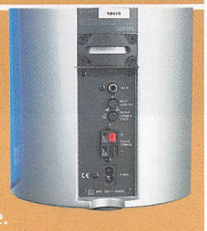
Colours, too are delivered with verve, and when watching *Terminator 2* on DVD the set moves easily from natural skin tones to amazingly vivid future-scapes with no problem at all. Contrast levels are also first rate, and with the dark and moody *The Godfather: Part II* DVD the Loewe does a fantastic job of painting really dark blacks, while also rendering any details within those areas clear and visible. What's more, there's little in the way of unsightly smearing.

However, the same cannot quite be said for the sonic side of the equation. While the system is perfectly listenable at low levels, with good detail and crisp effects-panning, at higher volumes it soon begins to sound bright and harsh. The subwoofer built into the stand is also a touch one-dimensional, and while it works okay when adding a bit of depth to stereo off-air broadcasts, push it a bit harder with an action movie such as *Terminator 2* and it soon reaches the limits of its ability.

So the Loewe's a bit of a mixed bag then, especially at this elevated price. However, as a style system, the Loewe is certainly good to look at – in both senses. It's just let down by surround sound that fails to blow you away. Certainly it's one to consider if style is more important than substance, but frankly you can get better performance for less money.

The fold-down front panel hides AV inputs and a satellite-card module

WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS COST



Although this complete set-up as tested costs £5150, you can buy the individual components separately. The television set itself is £2500 without the stand – which costs a further £500. Both sets of active speakers are available separately, although because of the matching design it would be unusual to use them elsewhere. The L2A floorstanding front speakers will set you back £1500, while the LS82 rears cost £650. Both sets of speakers are active – the TV itself only has an in-built 2x40W amplifier if you use it on its own.

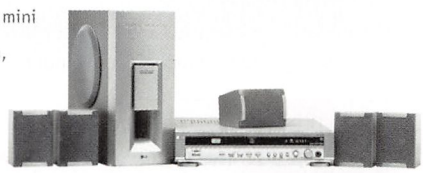
LEADING RIVALS

Hitachi C36WF830N £2000 ★★★★★ (Awards 2001) A Best Buy thanks to its 36in flat screen, great picture and Dolby Digital and DTS audio

Toshiba 36ZP18P £2000 ★★★★★ (Nov 2001) Again, a 36in flat screen tube coupled to Dolby Digital audio for considerably less than the Loewe

With the new DA-3520 all-in-one digital home cinema system just sit back, relax and let the multiplex come to you. You get the sound quality of a top of the range Hi-Fi system with the picture sharpness of the latest DVD technology, all in one conveniently sized unit. Or, if you want to get technical – you get a DVD player, 5.1 channel digital home cinema amplifier, satellite surround speakers set and sub woofer, audio Hi-Fi system with built-in RDS tuner for FM/AM radio plus a CD player compatible with audio CD/CD-R/CD-RW discs and the latest MP3 digital audio format. It's also available in mini and micro units. Oh, and it even makes your popcorn. Er...probably.

All of which makes it completely compatible with your old bottom-in-armchair system.



LG

Ordinary sound behind Aiwa style

Aiwa XR-MS5
Micro system £250
★★★☆☆

For Compact, neat and stylish; good connectivity

Against Sonic performance just average; sharp treble presentation

Verdict The XR-MS5 is a decent micro, though it doesn't offer anything special for the money

The attraction of the XR-MS5 is easy to understand. It's small, stylish and packs in the essentials of CD and radio replay. Add neat compact speakers into the equation and this Aiwa would seem an ideal compromise in a market where the pillars of style and convenience stand tall.

Connectivity is good. The XR-MS5 offers analogue inputs and outputs coupled with an optical digital output. A nice touch is the subwoofer output should the bass extension of the standard speakers fail to fulfil.

For a system of this type the sonic results are respectable. An open midrange lets Mary J Blige's powerful vocals shine on a track like *No More Drama*, while a solid sounding low-end gives the performance a fair amount of authority. Playing around with T-Bass – a bass boost facility – adds extra oomph but reduces subtlety and definition. The rhythm is nice and tight too, though we'd be pushing things to describe this as a groove machine.

The Aiwa doesn't qualify for greatness. High frequencies, while not over-prominent, are coarse, so aggressively recorded albums are an unrewarding listen whatever the music.

This Aiwa also falls a long way short of the insight, dynamics and refinement of the similarly priced Denon D-M30. The internal electronics share the blame, as the same shortcomings are audible when using quality headphones.

The non-RDS tuner's sonic performance is consistent with that of the CD player. FM predictably sounds best, with clarity and detail, while MW and LW are competitive given the price, but nothing special in absolute terms. There are 32 presets across the three bands.

Overall this is a competent performer with a reasonable sonic performance. Problem is, the competition offers more.

LEADING RIVALS

Denon D-M30 £300 ★★★★★
(Sep 2000) Award-winner mixing fine sonics with great build and finish

JVC FS-SD9R £300 ★★★★☆ (July 2000) A stylish micro that also delivers a solid all-round sonic performance

Sexy Samsung is easy on the eye

Samsung WS-32W8VDE
32in widescreen TV £880
★★★★☆

For Good contrast; attractive design

Against Lacks detail and dynamics; can't adjust colour from RGB source

Verdict A smart-looking set with a reasonably good, large picture for a decent amount of money

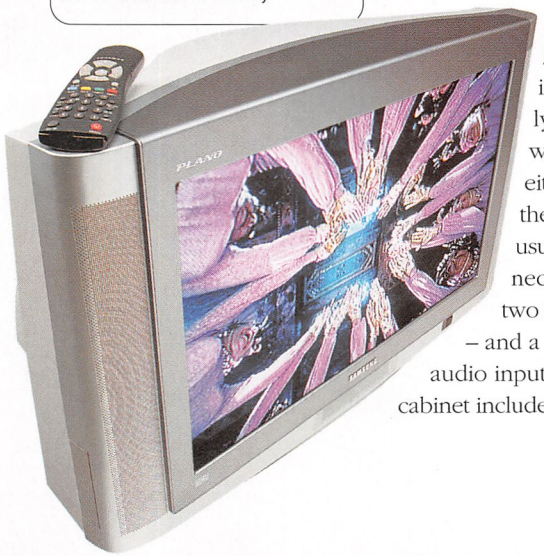
The Samsung WS-32W8VDE is the latest in a lengthy fashion parade of dressed-up widescreen TVs to pass in front of our eyes. And to our mind it's fairly attractive – at least at the front, the back has a rather odd snail like design, but then at least you won't see it all that often. The 32inch flat screen is built into a fairly large frontage, with speakers at either side. Around the back there's the usual stereo TV connections including two Scarts – one RGB – and a pair of analogue audio inputs. And you get a cabinet included in the price.

Setting up is an automatic and simple procedure, and there is also a reasonable selection of tweaking and option modes for you to play with afterwards. The only problem we have is that you can't adjust the colour settings when feeding the set a signal through the RGB Scart.

Once set up, picture quality is pretty respectable. Of particular note is the TV's ability to handle severe contrasts, and the dark *The Godfather: Part II* benefits from the deep, rich colours. That said, the picture isn't quite as detailed as we'd like, and the image is neither overly natural nor particularly dynamic.

The audio part of the package does a decent job in stereo – both from off-air broadcasts and DVD – but take our advice and forget about the Dolby Virtual Surround, which doesn't really help the sound at all.

As a basic set this Samsung is very respectable. It offers a good size screen in a fairly attractive box, for reasonable money. While it's true to say that there are better widescreen TVs available, it's also the case that there are very few at this price.



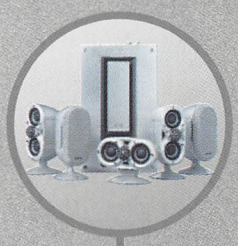
LEADING RIVALS

Hitachi C32WF727N £1000 ★★★★☆
(Nov 2001) A fine looking 100Hz television set with impressive colour and contrast levels

Bush DVD760TV £799 ★★★★☆
(Sep 2001) Good entry-level 32in set that has the added bonus of a built-in DVD player

Pascal

You won't want to look at anything else.



It's rude to stare. But who can blame you? Our tiny Pascal 815ED hi-fi speakers are designed for eyes as well as ears. Their pure aluminium cases produce a sound so clear a Soprano would be jealous. And thanks to Extended Definition (ED) Tweeters they're perfect for Super Audio CD as well as Home Cinema. With a range of Pascal speakers to suit any budget, it all sounds very impressive. Unless you're a fish.

go create

www.sony.co.uk

Customer information centre 08705111 999

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SONY

Arcaydis more than respectable

Arcaydis AKS
Loudspeakers £259
★★★★☆

For Deliciously smooth and rich with jazz and classical music
Against Not the most rocking sub-£300 design; real wood veneer dull
Verdict Solid speakers let down by a few less-impressive traits. Still well worth an audition, though

The market's not short of sub-£300 bookshelf speakers, but the new arrivals from Worcestershire firm Arcaydis are a worthwhile addition, combining compactness – just 31cm tall – with a choice of real wood veneers including oak, cherry and rosewood over an 18mm thick MDF cabinet.

The design uses the "upside-down" driver layout popularised by Mission, the 12cm mid/bass driver sitting atop the soft-dome tweeter, this arrangement giving good low-end control, while the cabinet uses a rear port for bass reinforcement. Biwiring terminals are provided, and these should be used for the best combination of focus and control.

The installation guidelines suggest the use of 60cm mass-loaded stands, and a position some 30cm from side and rear walls, with the speakers about 3m apart and slightly toed-in. This seemed to work pretty well in our listening room, allowing an open and controlled soundstage with good imaging and front-to-back depth, especially with well-recorded jazz and classical music: listening to Diana Krall's *The Look of Love* set showed just how well they can handle massed strings while still keeping a close watch on soloists.

LEADING RIVALS **Mission 780** £300 ★★★★★ (Awards 2001) What Mission does best: stylish small speakers with scale, weight and involvement way beyond their price and dimensions

However, although the AKSs are undemanding of the amps with which they're used – their 88dB/W/m sensitivity and 4ohm impedance should give few modern designs any problems – they wouldn't be our choice for large-scale rock. While fine with the relatively simple production of T Rex's *Electric Warrior* – sounding glorious in its 30th anniversary edition – they are a bit messy with the likes of Jamiroquai's *A Funk Odyssey* and the dense layers of Spiritualized's *Let It Come Down*, the warmth on offer seeming to slow the music somewhat and prevent clear insight into what's going on.

Cultured, refined and easy to enjoy, the AKS speakers deserve a serious audition, but we suspect some will find them just a bit too polite.

Hitachi's a hit for world radio buffs

Hitachi KH-WS1
Satellite radio receiver £150
★★★★★

For The ability to hear a vast array of stations; sound quality; build
Against Limited number of presets
Verdict The KH-WS1 is quite simply a great piece of kit, which has the ability to unlock foreign airwaves with ease

Even though radio is the true mass-market communicator, it's an overlooked medium: CD, MD and DVD all rank higher in the audio hierarchy. However, this portable Hitachi is for people who take their radio seriously. It receives FM, MW and SW, but it will sell on its WorldSpace digital reception capability. The wealth of stations on the World Space service – broadcasts focus on the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Africa – is superb, as is the sound quality. It's hiss-free, with a high degree of clarity as long as the aerial has a clear view of the sky.

Normal radio impresses, too, although the set shows the gulf in broadcast quality between Radio 3 and commercial stations. The Hitachi has only one speaker but it can decode stereo, and deliver it through headphone and line-level outputs. With a good enough signal it will produce tonally even results with fine dynamics and attack, while sibilance is minimal.

MW sound is well above the norm. It's clear and detailed, and noise levels are low. The same applies to SW, though even this set can't disguise the poor quality. Presets are limited: there are 30 available, with FM and MW taking ten each, and the two SW bands splitting the rest.

While it sounds great for a portable, don't expect hi-fi standards of sonic performance. However, if you want to unravel the mystery of foreign radio stations, buy it.

mission

Symphonix limited, Stonehill, Huntingdon, PE29 6EY.
Phone: +44 (0) 1480 423 700 Fax: +44 (0) 1480 423 701
www.mission.co.uk

WHAT HI-FI? Awards 2000 BEST BUY

m71 loudspeakers
Best Buy up to £150

m70 series

Sanyo's basically good TV

Sanyo CE32WP5
Widescreen Pro-Logic TV £800
★★★☆☆

For Respectable picture; good size/price compromise; styling

Against Curved screen; Pro-Logic only, so no Dolby Digital sound

Verdict A reasonable offering for the money, but not the most sophisticated set we've tested

The advantage of surround sound TVs is that they offer convenience, affordability and, perhaps most importantly of all, they're easy to install. The downside is that they lack the sound quality of separate components.

Sanyo's CE32WP5 is a case in point. It can only process Dolby Surround, rather than Dolby Digital 5.1 audio (see panel), but at least this gives you some sort of surround effect, and as the saying goes, some is better than none. For that same reason, there's not a lot to play with in terms of surround adjustments or set-up options. You can add an additional pair of external front speakers if you wish (via a second set of springclip speaker terminals), but that's about your lot. Sadly, no provision is made for direct audio connection into your hi-fi or surround amplifier (ie no RCA phono outputs).

The Sanyo's only other trick is a "virtual subwoofer" called MaxxBass – effectively, an adjustable loudness contour – to intensify low-frequencies. It's relatively effective, although the set still doesn't go that loud. That's not really surprising, given that it only has 10W to the front speakers, 12W to the centre and 6W to the surrounds.

As for picture, the Sanyo employs a conventional curved screen tube, not the more modern flat-screen type, but given the price and the tube's size (32in) that's acceptable. Forget about digital noise reduction or other technotrickery – this is a plain-vanilla analogue tube, with simple set-up options.

Certainly, the image is commendably free from the vapour-trail noise that can plague some digitally-enhanced sets. Colours on *Terminator 2* look fine, with just a hint of excessive flare to some red/orange shades, while blacks are rendered fairly well. On some scenes, notably the opening, you can struggle to pick out fine details against the murk, but by and large, the image is good, with fine three-dimensionality and impact.

It's the sonic side of things that disappoints a little. While we can understand that, at this price, the Sanyo isn't going to offer the full benefits of Dolby Digital 5.1 audio, it still seems to sound underwhelming. Clarity on complex action sequences can disappoint, and there's an overall lack of drive to fast-moving action set-pieces. More ambient sequences are more rewarding, the Sanyo's modestly-sized rear speakers generating respectable surround ambience during *The Exorcist*'s creepy staircase sequences.

You can certainly find some better-sounding TV sets, but they cost considerably more, and we understand that a large stack of separates kit won't suit everyone. For that reason, this Sanyo set has its place: it offers a big picture, some form of surround audio, and reasonable value.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DOLBY SOUND

DVDs use Dolby Digital audio, but this does not automatically mean 5.1 channel surround sound. Dolby Digital is a "carrier", within which audio engineers have the opportunity to mix as many as 5.1 channels of sound – but it also allows for less channels, including basic stereo or even mono sound. The older system of surround audio used in cinemas, Dolby Surround, is usually available from any DVD as a "downmix" stereo signal. Dolby Surround is electronically buried within stereo audio, which is why it can be stored on anything from CDs through to VHS tape, as well as DVDs. All that is required is something to process and amplify it, such as this TV.

LEADING RIVALS

Toshiba 32ZD09B £1500 ★★★★☆ (Nov 2001) Excellent sound and performance for the price, although that's a hefty increase over the Sanyo!

Toshiba 32Z13B £900 ★★★★★ (Dec 2001 –see *First Test* p11) Nicam only, but outstanding picture, coupled to beefy stereo sound performance

Denon and Arcam rock receiver scene

The home cinema receiver market is set for new Denon and Arcam rivals that promise a diverse approach to surround sound entertainment. Denon's AVR-2802 is optimised for movies, while Arcam's AVR200 is aimed at music lovers.

Specifications don't always guarantee brilliance, but Denon's AVR-2802 tilts at world domination in some style. At £650, it has six 90W channels of internal amplification for extended-surround listening. If you want to upgrade to seven speakers you'll need to add a power amplifier to drive two centre-rear speakers, but happily the Denon has full preout terminals to do the job.

Digital to analogue conversion is 24/96kHz quality throughout, and a staggering list of surround audio signals can be decoded or processed. There's Dolby Pro-Logic II and DTS Neo:6 for analogue audio, DTS-ES Matrix 6.1 and Discrete 6.1 audio, and compatibility with Dolby Digital Surround EX. There's also component video switching, nine analogue inputs and no less than four assignable digital connections.

Arcam, on the other hand, has maintained its trademark simplicity-first approach with the £800 AVR200, which was previewed at the Live 2001 show. Indeed, it's followed this path to the extent that the new model looks exactly like the outgoing AVR100. The key difference is the provision of Dolby Pro-Logic II processing for better off-air listening, while the receiver of course also has the usual Dolby Digital and DTS 5.1 decoding.

Power is 70W to all five channels, five digital connections are provided, and full preamp outputs are on hand for easy biamplification using Arcam's power amplifiers. Stereo performance is claimed to be class-leading, a clear pointer to Arcam's hopes for the AVR200's future success in such a competitive market.

More shebang for your buck: Denon's AVR-2802 comes fully-loaded

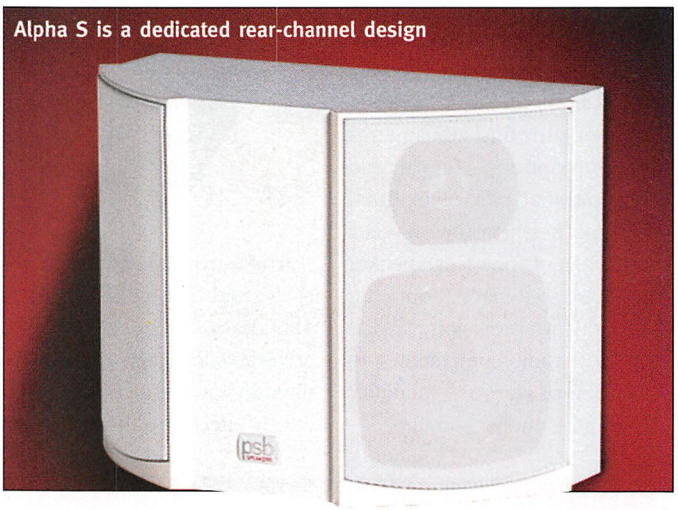
WILSON BENESCH CUTS THE COST OF CUTTING-EDGE

High-end speaker company Wilson Benesch has two more affordable new units, the Arc and the Centre. The 30cm tall Arc is its first two-way standmounting design, and despite being Wilson Benesch's least expensive model at £2000, still packs the company's unique engineering. The cabinets use carbon fibre panels with alloy frames for minimal coloration, while their curved shape reduces the build-up of internal standing waves, so reducing resonances.

While the Arcs' tweeter is sourced from SEAS, WB's in-house Tactic unit, used in most of the company's speakers, provides the mid/bass. It's tuned with two downward firing ports, making the the dedicated stands a must. These cost £500, but if you buy the speaker/stand combination the package price drops to £2400.

The £1650 Centre, seen above, is just what the name implies. and has the usual centre speaker driver configuration: two 17cm Tactics straddle the SEAS tweeter, while the cabinet uses the same construction as the Arc.

Compact carbon: Wilson Benesch Arc speakers



Alpha S is a dedicated rear-channel design

PSB's bipole addition

PSB has released details of its latest addition to the Alpha series, the Alpha S. The Alpha S is a bipole speaker designed for use with the entire PSB Alpha range, either as the rears in a five-channel system, or the additional surround speakers in systems equipped with THX EX and DTS 6.1 discrete. Each side of the speaker is fitted with a 13mm anodised aluminium dome tweeter and an 8.3cm polypropylene mid/bass driver, set 90 degrees apart.

The cabinet is made of MDF, finished in either white or black vinyl veneer, and the speakers are designed so that they can be either wall mounted or on stands. The new Alpha S is available now, and costs £300 a pair.

WIDESCREEN TVS SET TO BE THIS YEAR'S IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT

For Christmas I want...

Widescreen TV – 22%
Digital camera – 19%
PlayStation 2 – 17%
DVD player – 10%
Mobile phone – 9%
Camcorder – 8%
MP3 player – 5%
Palmtop – 5%
Game Boy Advance – 5%
Source: Pricerunner

Widescreen TVs are top of the Christmas-present wishlists of UK consumers, according to a recent survey.

Given the choice of nine consumer electronics items, 22 per cent of those surveyed opted for a widescreen TV as their ideal Christmas present. Last year's seasonal bestseller – a DVD player – was picked by just 10 per cent, though it is likely that many of the consumers longing for a widescreen wonder this year are people who still have last year's DVD player purchase attached to a smaller, 4:3 set and are looking to upgrade to a more cinema-style picture.

The wishlist survey was conducted among 1,642 visitors to Pricerunner's online price-comparison service between 1-14 October.

Jamal Hirani, Pricerunner's managing director, predicts: "the widescreen TV will bring back the family gathering. The similar rise of digital cameras and camcorders proves that we're all set to put TV at the centre of our lives this year and next.

"It's amazing that TVs are getting bigger where other gadgets get smaller and smaller. The age of the TV has truly arrived," he added.

You can find Pricerunner at www.pricerunner.com.

■ Sharp is offering three free DVD-Video titles to consumers who buy any of its DVD players – including its latest portable model – from now until 31 December. The £1.5m promotion allows buyers to choose from a range of Buena Vista, TriStar and Warner Vision discs.

Naim goes multichannel – but amp's not for home cinema

The £2249 NAP 6-50 multichannel power amp marks Naim's first serious entry into the world of multiroom systems and home installation. The power amplifier's six 50W channels could be used in a home cinema set-up, but the company is aiming this product in a different direction, leaving the forthcoming AV processor and three-channel power amplifier to capture the movie market.

This unit is internally configured as three pairs of stereo power amplifiers, based on the circuitry used in the Nait 5 integrated. Each stereo pair has its own power supply, right back to a separate winding on the custom transformer.

Six channels, but mainly made for multiroom

There's a handy range of features too. Naim has fitted input sensing circuits so the amplifier comes out of standby when it receives a music signal, while a 12V trigger system is also available to control it. Meanwhile an internal fan keeps the electronics cool even when the power amp is working hard – essential given that the amp may be hidden away.

However, those who think that Naim has sold out its usual purist values can rest easy. The inputs of the NAP 6-50 of course retain the company's traditionally idiosyncratic DIN sockets.

Worth waiting for...

Acoustic Energy AegoP5 (£600) The five-channel sub/sat version of the Aego2

The long-awaited five-channel version of Acoustic Energy's cute sub/sat speaker system will finally go on sale by the end of November. The AegoP5 includes palm-sized satellite speakers, a compact subwoofer with six channels of built-in amplification and a separate Dolby Digital/DTS decoder to plug into a DVD player.

The speakers are available in black or white, with a silver decoder. With just the speakers, and no decoder, the system costs £450.

AegoP5 on sale November

Who's launching what, and when

Mid November

Sennheiser HD-280 pro £85
Headphones
The HD-280 pros are designed for professional use, and come equipped with rotating earpieces for one ear monitoring, making them ideal for DJs.

Aiwa XR-DV700 £600
Home cinema in a box
This system includes five satellite speakers and a subwoofer, while the main unit takes care of DVD playback, processing and power amplification.

Tannoy Eyris
Loudspeakers
The Eyris range comprises a bookshelf model (£600), two floorstanders (£1000/£1200), a centre (£500) and surround speakers (£550). They're all available in sycamore and American cherry veneers.

WHO SAYS MEN CAN'T MULTI-TASK? With the Panasonic DVD Recorder's unique "Timeslip" function it's easy. If you're recording a game you can start watching without waiting for it to finish. The function also allows you to simultaneously watch one programme, whilst recording another on the same disc – ideal for soap lovers (with a social life). The new DMR-E20 can record in a number of modes, from high resolution DVD quality to 12 hours on one disc in extended play. And because it can use DVD-R discs, the recordings can be played on most DVD players. It's even got a DV input to keep camcorder users happy. Visit www.panasonic.co.uk or call 08705 357 357.

DVD VIDEO RAM DVD R

Panasonic

THE FIRST DVD RECORDER

THAT PLAYS THE FIRST HALF,

WHILE STILL RECORDING

THE SECOND HALF.

Tokyo shows audio's future

Personal cinema? JVC's stylish flatscreen TV partnered with the company's Direct Drive Stick speakers

The format war continues, and again at the 2001 Japan Audio Expo the rival camps of DVD-Audio and Super Audio CD were facing each other across an aisle. But there was little glowering going on; in fact the two stands looked much the same as last years', but with the addition of one or two new products for each format. For example, there was a massive DVD-A megachanger from Kenwood – should there ever be enough discs to fill it – and a quiet debut for the first UK-built DVD-V/SACD player, in the form of Linn's Kryptik, on static (that is, non-playing) display. A snapshot view of the popularity of the two formats – based on the length of the queues we saw for demonstrations – suggests that SACD had the edge.

Elsewhere it was hard disks a-go-go, with all the major manufacturers showing HDD-based machinery to record video, audio, or both. Yamaha's CDR-HD1000 was rolled out, while after the show Sony let us have a play with its forthcoming HAR-D1000 (great model number!) First seen at the Frankfurt IFA show, it uses MiniDisc-style compression to cram lots of music onto the hard disk, but has no way for the user to make a hard copy. The Yamaha doesn't compress, but it can store up to 30 CDs of music and has a CD-RW deck built in – we'll be testing it in the magazine next month.

Mirror finishes seem to be the style of the moment, with Panasonic showing a complete range of slimline and shiny AV products including DVD players and receivers, along with its ¥135,000 (£750) DMR-E20 DVD-RAM recorder. This comes complete with a fast search roller-scroll control labelled Time Warp: it's just a jump to the right of the disc-drawer.

Sleek DVD Walkman from Sony

Pioneer, meanwhile, is onto the second generation of its DVD-R machines and aiming to bring prices down, while Sony has entered the recordable movie disc fray with its RDR-A1 machine, which comes complete with an i-Link connection to hook up to Sony camcorders.

Marantz was demonstrating multichannel SACD audio with its new SA-12S1 and DV12S1 players, the latter being a dedicated movie machine without SACD capability, while a huge display of the latest plasma sets was spreading the flat-screen word, amusingly alongside a large stand housing a range of small valve amplifier companies. But to JVC goes the gong for coolest product of the show – the slim Direct Drive Stick speakers – and also that for the daftest, as you'll see below.

Serious speakers from Yamaha

The ultimate boombox – JVC's system is designed as a backpack

What's new?

FRESH PRODUCTS AND HI-FI HAPPENINGS

In brief

APPLE'S MP3 JUKEBOX

Apple has launched the iPod, an MP3 jukebox that's the size of a pack of cards and weighs just 184g, but can hold up to 1000 tunes on its 5Gb drive. Its built-in FireWire port lets you transfer an entire CD of music into the iPod in under 10 seconds, aided by the faster-than-ever new iTunes2 software. The £329 iPod will ship on 22 November.

TAG DIGITAL RADIO EXTRA

Owners of TAG McLaren's AV32R processor can now upgrade to digital radio by adding a special module. The module is the same as the one as used in TAG's T32R digital tuner, but it uses the 96kHz/24-bit digital-to-analogue converters in the AV32R. The upgrade costs £690 if your AV32R is less than 18 months old, and £789 for older models.

SNELL GETS THX ULTRA 2

Snell Acoustics claims to be the first speaker manufacturer to receive THX Ultra 2 certification. Its XA 1900 THX Tower speakers have already been certified, and the rest of the package (the AMC900dpi dipole surround speakers and ICS Sub24 subwoofer) are awaiting approval. The XA 1900 THX costs $1500, the AMC900 $1000 and the ICS Sub24 $2600.

SONY AND TIVO TEAM UP

Sony has signed a deal giving it access to TiVo's digital recording technology. The seven-year agreement covers both hardware and software, allowing Sony to develop its own digital recorders or add capabilities to existing lines.

Klegg 'eggs' challenge KEF for the surround style crown

Thought the KEF eggs (more correctly known as the KHT2005 system) were the cutest speakers on the home cinema block? Think again. London-based Klegg Audio has launched a new 5.1 system designed to out-cute the Award-winning KEFs, offering even tinier, sexier alloy egg speakers as its key attraction. Each all-metal, stove-enamel-finished Klegg satellite is just 9.6cm high and 7.2cm wide, making them some of the most discreet speakers on the market.

The £499 M6-5.01 system comprises an active 45W subwoofer with built-in amplification for the accompanying satellites. Rated at a modest 12W per speaker, this amplification means all you need to create a complete audio system is any product with provision for 5.1 surround decoding. That includes a suitable DVD player (say, the £500 Panasonic DVD-RA71), or a surround preamp (such as the £300 Yamaha DSP-E800) or indeed, the six-channel preout sockets that adorn the majority of home cinema amplifiers these days. Make the six-channel connection (Klegg provides suitable cabling in the box) and you've got everything else you need to deliver full surround sound.

All the loudspeakers connect into the rear panel of the subwoofer, again using supplied cable, and a variety of wall-brackets, pole stands or simple sponge bases provide suitable mounting provision for each satellite.

To learn more, contact Klegg Audio UK on 020 7371 0194, or look out for our *First Test* in the January issue (on sale Thursday 13 December.)

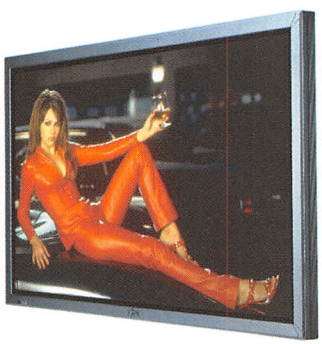
Klegg's surround sound system offers the smallest satellites yet

FUJITSU PROMISES 50IN FLICKER-FREE PLASMA

Fujitsu's new 50in plasma display includes the world's first full digital plasma processor, which claims to greatly reduce screen smear and flicker.

The high-resolution (1366x768 pixels) Fujitsu PDS-5002 – which is just 9.7cm thick – can accept input from a range of sources, including DVD players, VCRs and PCs. It also includes a built-in amplifier, with outputs for optional speakers. A full spec is available at www.fujitsugeneral.co.uk.

The PDS-5002 costs £9150 and is on sale in leading department stores.



Fujitsu's latest plasma claims to be sharpest ever

Velodyne bass is back

Velodyne, one of the best-known subwoofer manufacturers in the US, has returned to the UK after a lengthy hiatus. Redline distribution (0131 226 1981) has released two models, the SPL-1000 and SPL-1200, to compete with REL and M&K at the top-end of the subwoofer market, priced at £1125 and £1325 respectively.

The Velodynes are finished in a relatively prosaic black, rather than more luxurious wood finishes, but both models offer massive output power (a hefty 750W), with the smaller model having a 25cm driver, the larger a 30cm one. Both use sealed-box enclosures with forward-firing drive units to optimise agility and slam.

Ruark's Vita 50 system is yours for around £1000

RUARK OFFERS HIGH-END HOME CINEMA SUB/SAT SOLUTIONS

Ruark's added new subwoofers and surround speakers to its Vita and CL series.

The first new product is the Vita 50 system, which includes a subwoofer and five satellite speakers and will sell for around £1000. All speakers are equipped with a 20mm titanium tweeter and a 9cm aerogel mid/bass driver. The active subwoofer is fitted with a 20cm drive unit, and is included in the system, or can be purchased separately for £400.

Also new to the Ruark range is the CL15 centre speaker and the CL300 subwoofer. The CL15 is designed to work in line with other products in the CL range, and uses the same 28mm silk dome/aluminium voice coil tweeter and pulp paper mid/bass driver. The CL15 should cost around £800.

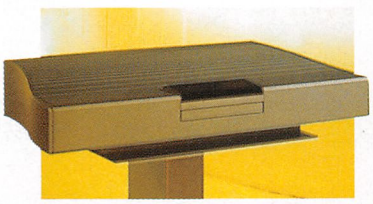
The CL300 subwoofer is built with two 30cm drive units, and with its individual gain control and phase control is designed with true integration in mind, and the LED display allows you to keep an eye on the cut off frequency. The price is £2000 and you can find more info on the company's website at www.ruark.net.

T+A unveils DVD combo

T+A has announced its latest one-box home cinema system, the K6 DVD surround receiver – its first all-in-one to include a DVD player.

The feature-packed KG borrows much from T+A's SR1510R receiver and DVD1210R DVD player. It includes an RDS tuner with 60 presets, DVD, CD and CD-R/RW playback, and an amplifier offering 65 watts of nominal power per channel. The K6 also offers Dolby Digital 5.1, DTS and Pro-Logic II decoding, and because the decoder is software-based, it can be upgraded.

The K6 also has three Scart connections with RGB output, coaxial and optical inputs, and two analogue stereo inputs. There are seven speaker outputs, so the K6 can handle five-channel sound, as well as a stereo pair for multiroom use. The K6 – available via BBG Distribution – costs £3899.


T+A's latest one-box cinema solution includes a DVD player

In my humble opinion...

Don't compromise with surround sound, says first tests editor Shaun Marin – try trusty stereo instead

Surround sound – you just can't get away from it at the moment. It's all around you. Wherever you look speaker manufacturers are churning out 5.1 packages to use with music or movies or – as many increasingly claim – both.

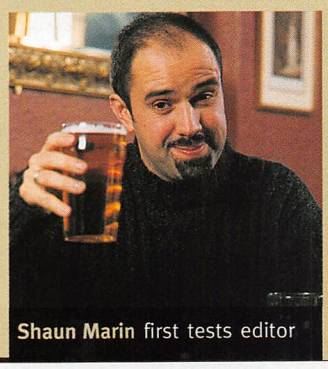
And this is fine by me. I'm all for surround sound with movies, and agree there's little in the world of consumer electronics to beat the thrill of watching a great film on a big screen with perfectly balanced speakers, perfectly placed around your perfectly designed viewing room. But very few of us inhabit this ideal world, which is why we're constantly talking about compromise. In particular we're seeing increasing numbers of small, compact multichannel speaker packages, both as part of all-in-one AV systems and sold separately. These little beauties can fit into most homes and do a decent job with movies.

However, they are still severely compromised, and if you agree that the idea of home cinema is to recreate the real thing, then a few pops and cracks behind you don't quite fit the bill – not when you're denied the thrill of that wall of sound that really matters. After all most of the action takes place on your screen, rather than behind your head.

'Few of us inhabit this ideal world'

So if you're looking for one system that plays music and movies, forget compromised surround sound. Stick to stereo. A good set of stereo front speakers will do a far better job than five poor satellites and a one-trick sub, and while you lose out on surround, you gain so much more elsewhere, like dynamics – and, of course, music ability.

Surround sound may be a major part of a good DVD, but it's not a major part of making a great movie. Look at *Citizen Kane*, *Touch Of Evil* and *The Maltese Falcon*; now look at *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* – see what I mean?


Shaun Marin first tests editor

We would have made the new Onkyo L5 a lot bigger But our wives wouldn't let us

Phone the Onkyo distributor, Jamo UK Ltd., on 01788 556 777 for further information.

Onkyo now takes integrated systems to a new level.

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IMAGINATIVE SIGHT & SOUND

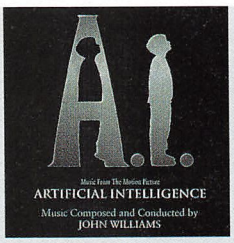
From classical scores for Spielberg to marvellous mixes for mobsters, we've used the lot this month to reveal both the strengths and weaknesses of our review systems

A.I
OST
Warner Brothers

John Williams, composer of countless classic movie scores, delivers again for Spielberg's latest, *AI: Artificial Intelligence*.

The key requirement of any system will be dynamic ability, as tracks move beautifully between subtlety and highly charged orchestral sections.

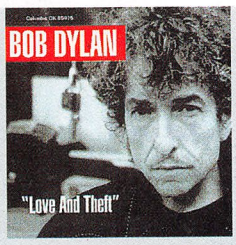
The vocal pieces will also appreciate a warm sound, and good detail will distinguish the string section. A worthy addition to Williams' canon.



Bob Dylan
Love And Theft
Columbia

There is just no stopping this man. With a career that spans more than three decades, Dylan still has the creative resources to produce yet another great set.

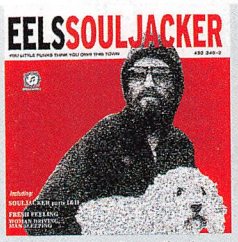
Love and Theft is rife with classic bluesy rock and the lyrical style that made Dylan famous. Detail is essential due to Dylan's more acoustic approach, and a fair idea of soundstaging will give this set the space it needs and deserves.



Eels
Souljacker
Dreamworks

More intelligent rock from Mr. E and his band, but this time Eels have added a great deal more bite.

The dirty riffs of tracks like *Bus Stop Boxer* are cutting in their intensity, and the rough edges of *That's Not Really Funny* speak volumes about E's talent to put together gritty rock songs. Punch and lengthy bass extension will really add to the enjoyment of this set, and a tight sound will pile on the excitement.



Jamiroquai
A Funk Odyssey
Sony

After a lengthy break, the cat in the hat and his crew have returned in fine style, with chunky dollops of their trademark funk.

A tight-sounding set-up is a must to make the most of the rolling basslines and the up-tempo vibe, and resolution in the midrange will make the most of the smooth vocal. Stand out tracks include *Twenty Zero One*, and the *Little L*, the song inspired by Jay's split with Denise van Outen.

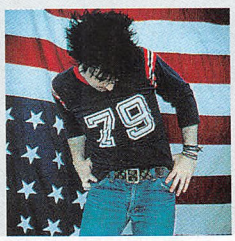
Macy Gray
The Id
Epic

After Macy stunned the world with her gravely vocals and great songwriting talent on *How Life Is* she is back with *The Id*.

This set is packed full of great songs and even better guest appearances including Mos Def, and Erykah Badu on the single release, *Sweet Baby*.

Lavish production techniques have been used here, with rich tones and a massive sense of scale that requires dynamic reproduction.

Music used this month



Ryan Adams
Gold
Lost Highway

Ryan Adams – not to be confused with raspy rocker Bryan – is one of this year's hot properties. *Gold* is much more pop orientated than previous offerings, but still remains a strong alt. country set, with hints of Tom Petty and Neil Young.

A refined treble in any system will relish this set of beautifully crafted songs and a natural sound will render more acoustic moments wonderfully.

Smog
Rain On Lens
Domino

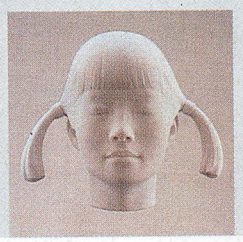
After last years upbeat *Dongs of Sevotion*, Bill Callahan's Smog return with a considerably more downbeat offering: one look at the sleeve and you know what to expect.

Stripped of everything bar emotion and catchy guitar riffs, this set is first rate. Although the sparse nature of the recording will ensure respectable playback on anything, on a revealing system it's astoundingly intimate.

Peppers&Eggs
The Sopranos OST
Columbia

The Sopranos has been elevated to cult status after only three series and one aspect of the show that's helped to raise it up is the outstanding music used in each episode.

The highlight is *Every Breath You Take* spliced with Henry Mancini's *Theme From Peter Gunn*, which must be heard to be believed. Add tunes from the likes of Sinatra and Otis Redding, and you've got one killer set.



Spiritualized
Let It Come Down
Arista

A fine blend of rock and ambient tones form a worthy successor to *Ladies And Gentlemen... We Are Floating In Space*.

The themes are dark – tales of despair and lost love – but contrast well with the bright combo of synths and acoustics.

Your system needs a well-controlled high-end to avoid harshness, as this is a bright recording. A good sense of balance will help matters, too.

Tori Amos
Strange Little Girls
Atlantic

Amos' latest is comprised entirely of cover versions, but don't be put off.

Tori's worked her magic on some classics, and the end results are intriguing and inspiring. Her take on *Happiness is a Warm Gun* has to be heard, and she brings bags of tenderness to Depeche Mode's *Enjoy the Silence*.

With the right system the naturally recorded vocals will be presented with fine precision.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION SUPERTEST: £190-£300 Floorstanding speakers (products on test in gold, other rivals in grey)...

Acoustic Energy Aegis Two	£250	JBL LX 2003	£300	Polk R40	£300
Acoustic Research Status S40	£300	JPW Millenium ML 710i	£250	Quadral QXL 160	£240
Dali AXS 5000	£269	KEF Cresta 3	£250	Tannoy Mercury mX3	£230
Eltax Liberty 5+	£199	Magnet Vintage 120	£269	Wharfedale Diamond 8.3	£200
Jamo E470	£190	Mission m73	£200	Yamaha NS-120	£250
Jamo E850	£300	Monitor Audio Bronze 3	£270		

WHAT HI-FI?
SOUND AND VISION

Supertest No. 307

Floorstanding speakers £190-£300

Tall tales

Budget floorstanding speakers make sense. You save at least £50 by not needing to buy stands, and most look good compared to their "bookshelf" brethren. Or that's the theory: as we discovered during this test, there's clear water between the floorstanders that deliver and those that flatter to deceive. We've brought together contenders from the likes of Mission, Acoustic Energy, KEF, and Monitor Audio to battle it out for top spot. The winner may surprise you.

What our star ratings mean

★★★★★ Award-winning Product of the Year or Best Buy

★★★★★ The best sounding product at its price: a *Supertest* winner

★★★★★ One of the best available at the price

★★★★☆ Great sound and value for money: well worth a listen

★★★☆☆ Average performance but not outstanding

★★☆☆☆ Disappointing: we'd expect better sound

★☆☆☆☆ Say no more

Products are tested against peers in their price ranges and are awarded stars on a sound-per-pound basis. Older products' star ratings may drop when they're tested against new rivals

Acoustic Energy Aegis Two

£250

For Well-balanced presentation; fine build quality and finish

Against Not as insightful or open as the best of the competition

Verdict ★★★★☆

The Aegis Twos are still a solid buy, but really no longer up with the floorstanding class leaders

These elegant towers share more than just a family resemblance with the Award-winning Aegis One standmounters. The two products use the same drive units, crossover and porting arrangement, but the Aegis Twos have extended cabinets.

They come mass-loaded, so take care when unpacking them: each enclosure's 5kg of metal chippings adds stability, and damps the cabinet to produce more focused results.

Give the Aegis Twos room to breathe and they produce a pleasing performance. While newer rivals eclipse these speakers in outright resolution and dynamics, there's still much to admire. Driver integration is seamless, the result being a lovely cohesive presentation.

Composure in the face of more demanding recordings is impressive, too: the Acoustic Energys stay refined even when pushed hard. The top end isn't the most open-sounding here, but at least the tweeter behaves no matter how aggressive the production gets.

Prince's *Let's Go Crazy* is an edgy recording, but the Aegis Twos refuse to make matters worse, instead majoring on the song's drive. These speakers just make music, a talent that's easy to overlook on a short demo, but a valuable long term ability.

The Aegis Twos miss five stars, because there are now rivals that offer even more for the money – but this long-running design remains a good buy.

Still a good buy, the Aegis Twos' qualities take a longer audition to appreciate

Cabinet size 84 x 19 x 24cm **Sensitivity** 88.5dB/W/m
Impedance 8ohms **Biwire** No
Magnetic shielding Yes **Tweeter** 25mm silk dome
Mid/bass 13cm alloy cone

Jamo E470

£190

For Authoritative presentation; pleasing 'bounce' to the sound

Against Overall sonic performance below par, cabinet lacks solidity

Verdict ★★☆☆☆

Jamo makes some truly excellent loudspeakers, but the E470s are not among them

On the face of it, Jamo's E470s seem to offer tremendous value: they're a three way design with a large bass driver tuned with a massive front-firing reflex port. The cabinets are among the largest here, and so the promise is of a large-scale sound.

And that's exactly what these Jamos deliver with the hard-charging bass lines from Prince's *Best Of* Set. There's also a bounce to the presentation that draws you into the music.

However, listen longer and a number of weaknesses are apparent. The triple drive units may look impressive, but their lack of integration and poor resolution disappoint. Subtle details most rivals uncover are left unheard, while vocals lack coherence. Not helping matters is an unrefined tweeter that emphasises sibilance without offering any useful insight into the recording. Factor-in a loose low-frequency performance with a lack of real dynamic integrity, and the conclusion is not a pretty one.

External hints of the reasons for the poor performance aren't hard to find. The cabinet is highly resonant and none too sturdy, while there isn't even a provision for spikes, which would tighten the low end. The drive units lack the sophistication of rivals here, and are linked to your amp via a pair of springclip terminals.

Sometimes a product that doesn't tread the purist path can still impress, but in this instance our money would go elsewhere.

Despite their imposing looks and stature, the E470s disappoint sonically

Cabinet size 90 x 23 x 28cm **Sensitivity** 92dB/W/m
Impedance 4ohms **Biwire** No
Magnetic shielding No **Tweeter** 50mm cone
Midrange 7.5cm cone **Bass** 20cm cone

JBL LX2003

£300

For Refined presentation; upper bass drive; well-finished cabinets

Against Restrained dynamics; uneven tonal balance

Verdict ★★★☆☆

The JBL LX2003s fail to set the world alight, despite some impressive strengths

Refinement is a valuable commodity, and the LX2003s have it by the bucketful, thanks in no small part to their high quality titanium dome tweeters.

JBL has long favoured this type of high-frequency driver, and has the design spot-on. There's all the clarity that metal domes promise, but none of the hardness many exhibit. Even a bright recording like Prince's *Let's Go Crazy* doesn't push things over the edge.

The LX2003s' other qualities include fine timing and a powerful upper bass kick. The former lets these floorstanders latch on to a rhythm track, the latter ensures plenty of drive.

The well-finished cabinet is solidly built and has extensive internal bracing to reduce coloration, which is evident in the speakers' clean sonic delivery. Further strong points include fine stereo imaging and an expansive soundstage.

So why only three stars? Well, the JBLs' upper bass remains too prominent. Their dynamic restraint tempers excitement, and so robs music of involvement. Finally, so-so detail resolution dilutes the emotion in songs such as Marvin Gaye's *Abraham, Martin and John*.

Despite classy looks, decent build and clever engineering, these JBLs fail to rate any better than average. That's a shame, as their bookshelf siblings, the £200 LX2002s, impressed us mightily with their ability to rock like crazy (November 2001).

Smart looks, build and engineering fail to raise the LX 2003s above average

Cabinet size 78 x 20 x 26cm **Sensitivity** 89dB/W/m
Impedance 6 ohms **Biwire** Yes
Magnetic shielding Yes **Tweeter** 25mm Titanium dome
Mid/bass 17cm rib-reinforced paper cone

KEF Cresta 3

£250

For Good all-rounders that work well with most music and systems

Against Bass not the tightest around – that's all, really

Verdict ★★★★☆

The Cresta 3s remain a solid and sensible buy, though no longer up with the very best at this price

This market moves fast. The Cresta 3s aren't even two years old, but still manage to be among the oldest in this test. They use the same drive units as the excellent Cresta 2s, with a realigned crossover to capitalise on the greater internal volume in the stretched enclosure. Physically these speakers are pure Cresta, which means a neat, relatively solid cabinet with radiused front edges, and classy leather-look front panel.

Used away from the rear wall and slightly toed-in, the sound quality is familiar too. Rhythmic drive combines with refinement and attack to deliver great performances right across the board. The drive units integrate well, and on the whole these speakers just get on with playing the music without drawing undue attention to themselves.

But things aren't quite perfect. Those doped-paper mid/bass drivers may give low frequency weight, but – unlike the best here – they don't track basslines with pinpoint accuracy. Still, this is a small blemish in an otherwise fine all-round performance. Oh, and be sure to biwire them as we did in this test – doing so improves both dynamics and low-level resolution.

To sum up, the KEF Cresta 3s remain a fine buy. Their well-judged sonic balance lets them work well across the full range of music and price compatible systems. But for outright ability, they are edged out by some of the newer competition here.

Classy-looking Cresta 3s work well with a wide range of music and systems

Cabinet size 85 x 20 x 25cm **Sensitivity** 90dB/W/m
Impedance 8 ohms **Biwire** Yes
Magnetic shielding No **Tweeter** 25mm silk dome
Mid/bass 13cm doped paper

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Eclipse - get a glimpse at your local Marantz dealer.

eclipse

Tel. 01753 680868 Internet: www.marantz.com

because music matters

Magnat Vintage 120

£269

For Low frequency performance; looks; high volume capability

Against Aggressive treble; wayward bass; coloration levels

Verdict ★★☆☆☆

Look great, but disappoint with a ham-fisted sonic performance

Fire up the Vintage 120s and you'll realise that the company's "Sound With Bite" slogan is apt indeed. Few rivals can deliver the thunderous portions of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* with such gusto. Those aluminium coned mid/bass drivers dig deep with enthusiasm, while the 25mm soft-dome tweeter delivers the highs with real verve.

These are big speakers, and so need room to breathe if the bass isn't to overpower the rest of the presentation. The twin rear-firing ports can tuned with foam, or a similar material, to adjust the low-end performance should boominess prove to be a problem. However, we found the sound to be best with them left unhindered.

For high listening levels and bass thump these Magnats are the way to go. Just don't expect finesse: coloration levels are high, so acoustic instruments lack naturalness, and the overly bright treble threatens the ears when recordings are anything less than silky smooth.

Voices lack detail and projection, while the impressively powerful bass is wayward. The result is an energetic performer that'll impress on a short demo in the shop, but disappoint on longer acquaintance.

Biwiring proves mildly beneficial, as does fine-tuning the toe-in. In the end, great aesthetics are no disguise for a poor sonic performance – and here, the Magnats just haven't got what it takes to challenge the likes of the KEFs and Missions.

Mission m73

£200

For Articulate midrange; fine dynamics and timing

Against Lack naturalness and transparency; top end prominent

Verdict ★★★★☆

The m73s are fine floorstanders but this market is ultra-competitive

Mission is a long-established master of the budget speaker art, and with their fine sound and good looks the m73s are prime examples of why.

Like the rest of the m70 range, these upfront performers wring the music for every last drop of excitement. Spin Prince's *When Doves Cry* and these speakers are dynamic without losing subtle production touches, while Marvin Gaye's *Abraham, Martin and John* comes through with a full dose of emotion.

All the traditional Mission strengths are there: speed, a sweet midrange, terrific dynamics and a cohesive presentation, combining to present the m73s' case for taking top honours in this group.

However, judged by the strictest standards they're not as transparent as the best, and at times the tweeter is just too enthusiastic for its own good.

The distance from the rear wall isn't critical, but leave a 30cm gap initially, then experiment for the best bass performance. In the same way, a little toe-in firms up the stereo image without sacrificing the soundstage size, while biwiring brings substantial gains in both dynamics and openness.

Physically these are elegant towers, and while the distinctive front baffle may not be to everyone's taste, there's no denying that the design allows the m73s to stand out from the crowd. Overall, these Missions are a formidable package: they're not flawless, but they are persuasive.

The Magnats are striking, but hi-tech looks prove no substitute for sonic skills

Cabinet size 97 x 20 x 32cm **Sensitivity** 91dB/W/m
Impedance 4 ohms **Biwire** Yes
Magnetic shielding No **Tweeter** 25mm fabric dome
Mid/bass twin 16.5cm aluminium drivers

Fast, dynamic and entertaining, the m73s make a strong case for top honours

Cabinet size 85 x 20 x 31cm **Sensitivity** 90dB/W/m
Impedance 8 ohm compatible **Biwire** Yes
Magnetic shielding Yes **Tweeter** 25mm micro fibre dome
Mid/bass 16cm woven glass composite cone

Monitor Audio Bronze 3

£270

For Crisp and detailed midrange; refined treble; fit and finish

Against Low end lacks the precision of the higher frequencies

Verdict ★★★★☆

Cultured performer shows signs of greatness, but doesn't have the all-round talent to achieve it

Monitor Audio has a talent for turning out classy speakers, and the Bronze 3s are no exception. While they lack the real-wood veneers of the company's upmarket products, these elegant floorstanders still manage to look a class above anything else in this test thanks to their understated styling, fine quality vinyl wrap and superb finish.

Pleasingly, the sound fully reflects the visual elegance. Take the effort to biwire the speakers and position them away from the rear wall and the Monitors' presentation is sure to please.

The midrange presentation is crisp, with insight and refinement, so voices bristle with emotion and acoustic instruments exhibit impressive dynamic subtlety. This is due to fine integration between the metal loaded polymer mid/bass driver and metal dome tweeter, and the latter avoids any hint of the harshness that many such units can suffer from. The result is that the Bronze 3s have as good a performance from the midrange upwards as any rival in this test, and excel when it comes to detail resolution.

However, it's not all roses. While the bass has bags of grunt, it doesn't match the standards of control and definition apparent higher up the frequency range.

Even so, we still rate the Bronze 3s highly. With just a little bit more work, these speakers could be elevated to class-leading status, especially if that unruly bass was sorted out.

Frustratingly close to greatness, the MA Bronze 3s lack bass definition

Cabinet size 84 x 19 x 23cm **Sensitivity** 90dB/W/m
Impedance 6ohms **Biwire** Yes
Magnetic shielding Yes **Tweeter** 25mm metal dome
Mid/bass 16.5cm metal matrix polymer

Polk R40

£300

For Unobtrusive; not fussy about positioning; plenty of bass punch

Against Absence of cosmetic flair; lack of dynamics; high price

Verdict ★★☆☆☆

The competition is tough – and the blunt truth is that R40s lack what it takes to stand out in this company

With the minimum of cosmetic treatment, the Polk R40s are hardly what you'd describe as elegant, classy or attractive.

Their finish isn't up to the standards set by the likes of Acoustic Energy or Monitor Audio: the glueing on the mid/bass drivers' cone surrounds is messy, and has no place in a product at this price. Still, everything works, and there are no obvious rattles from the speakers when pushed hard.

The two 13cm drivers in each enclosure complement one another: the first handles the midrange and bass, the other just covers the lower frequencies.

These floorstanders aren't unduly fussy about position, but we settled on giving them plenty of space, so aiding stereo imaging without ruining the tonal balance.

Sadly, the R40s prove to be one of the disappointments in this test. A lack of resolution and dynamics is enough to relegate these Polks into the ranks of the also-rans, despite plenty of bass punch and decent integration.

Marvin Gaye's voice loses its characteristic emotion on a track like *Abraham, Martin and John*, while backing instrumentation sounds flat. The higher frequencies are sibilant and forward – while the "one note" bass performance robs the low-end of articulation and flair.

The R40s are disappointing and considering they are among the most expensive here, the verdict has to be two stars.

A poor result for the R40s, thanks to their high price and disappointing sound

Cabinet size 88 x 18 x 25cm **Sensitivity** 90 dB/W/m
Impedance 8ohms **Biwire** No
Magnetic shielding Yes **Tweeter** 19mm silk dome
Mid/bass 2 x 13cm polypropylene units

Wharfedale Diamond 8.3

£200

For Glorious midrange; control and resolution; fine build

Against Nothing at this price

Verdict ★★★★★

The Diamond 8.3s are terrific performers for the money. Few can match their all-round sonic abilities

We've raved about the baby Diamond 8.1 standmounters in these pages before, but a rich vein of talent runs through the Diamond range – so it comes as no surprise to see the 8.3s challenging for class honours.

The ingredients are familiar from the junior model: a well-sorted biwirable crossover mates the refined soft-dome tweeter to a Kevlar mid/bass driver. The cabinet build quality is competitively solid, and the boxes are finished to a good standard.

There's a compartment for mass loading the enclosure, but take care about the amount of filling. Too much and the sound becomes ponderous, so it's best to start around half full and experiment. That said, even with no filling the results are excellent, the midrange performance sounding particularly terrific. Vocals are full bodied and delivered with subtlety, offering insight and a natural balance far beyond most rivals' abilities.

Further up the frequency range things remain positive, the tweeter delivering clean and crisp results without adding any harshness to the proceedings. Rhythms are snappy and precise, while dynamics are up there with the class best. The 8.3s are as happy delivering hard-charging dance as they are small-scale classical works.

The combination of authority, tonal balance and class leading resolution is enough to blast these Wharfedales to the front line in this test. Question is, are they good enough to win it?

No surprise to find that the big brother of the baby Diamond 8.1 is another star

Cabinet size 80 x 21 x 26cm **Sensitivity** 86dB/W/m
Impedance 6ohms **Biwire** Yes
Magnetic shielding No **Tweeter** 25mm silk dome
Mid/bass 16.5cm Kevlar cone

Yamaha NS-120

£250

For Control; tuneful bass; openness; build quality and finish

Against Lack of low-level dynamics and real attack

Verdict ★★★☆☆

A solid enough performer that fails to shine against the competition

The NS-120s aim to build on the past successes of products like the NS-200 floorstanders at a lower price, and first impressions are certainly positive.

Yamaha consistently gets the build part of the speaker equation right, and the NS-120s make the grade. They feel solid and well finished, while the grey front baffle and high-tech drive units look modern.

These compact floorstanders bear the sonic hallmarks of Yamaha's other recent speaker designs. There's a fine level of clarity, and this makes it easy to pick out low-level details.

The mid/bass drivers may measure just 13cm in diameter, but they don't struggle with the depths on Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. Basslines remain tight and tuneful even at volume levels where some rivals strain.

These Yamahas set high standards when it comes to control, and rarely do they sound stressed during a complex piece of music. The yellow soft-dome tweeter looks odd, but offers refinement with bite.

However, the NS-120s have certain weaknesses. Compared to the class champs, slam is in short supply, which means that songs like Prince's *Let's Go Crazy* lose some impact. Low-level dynamics could be better too, voices lacking expression and instruments suffering from a lack of intensity.

Despite these failings, the NS-120s are good performers. Unfortunately, much of the new competition is more talented.

Offering control and openness, the NS-120s fall short on slam and intensity

Cabinet size 80 x 17 x 27cm **Sensitivity** 88dB/W/m
Impedance 6ohms **Biwire** No
Magnetic shielding Yes **Tweeter** 30mm soft dome
Mid/bass 13cm polymica cone

Chill
~~Rush~~ out and buy it now.

More than 3 hours of the world's most relaxing music.
Out now on 3 CDs or 2 cassettes from all good record stores.

Wharfedale Diamond 8.3 ★★★★★

Many of the contenders do little to stir the soul, and speakers such as the Polks, Jamos and Magnats are just plain poor. At least the Jamos are cheap, but the Polks and Magnats ask a premium compared to the best here. Even the contenders from such big names as Yamaha and JBL sound merely acceptable, which isn't enough when your competition includes the likes of KEF and Mission.

But there are stars here worthy of recommendation. The Acoustic Energy Aegis Twos are beautifully built and produce a well-rounded, pleasing sound: newer rivals may have bettered their sonic performance, but this design is still strong. Much the same can be said of the KEFs: though not quite as nicely put together as the Acoustic Energys, they compensate with a livelier sound.

Next are the Missions and Monitor Audios. The Mission m73s are fine speakers that get to the heart of the music – add distinctive aesthetics, and this great value package makes a solid choice. The Monitor Audios cost more, but add better build and finish to the ingredients list. In many ways the sound of the Bronze 3s is the best here, but a slight shortfall in bass quality stops these elegant speakers from taking top spot. The Wharfedales get our vote. They offer great value and produce the most rounded and yet open sound of the group. They're a terrific bargain.

We tested them with

REFERENCE SYSTEM

CD player **Krell KAV 280cd**

Pre/power **Krell KRC-3/FPB 300c**

PRICE-COMPATIBLE SYSTEM

CD player **Arcam DiVA CD72**

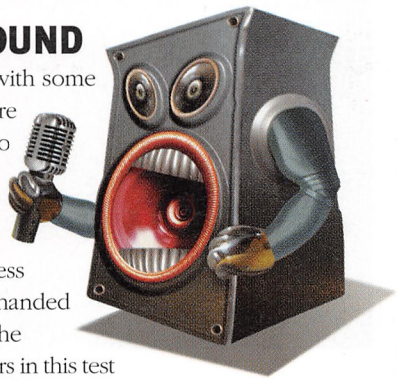
Integrated amp **Rega Brio**

Cables from **QED, Kimber** and **Transparent**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION says

	sound	build	compatibility	verdict
Acoustic Energy Aegis Two	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★☆
Jamo E470	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★☆☆☆
JBL LX2003	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆
KEF Cresta 3	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆
Magnat Vintage 120	★★☆☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆
Mission m73	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆
Monitor Audio Bronze 3	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★☆
Polk R40	★★☆☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆
Wharfedale Diamond 8.3	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★★
Yamaha NS-120	★★★☆☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆

BEST OVERALL SOUND



Despite our disappointment with some of the products in this test, there are still great performers to praise. **KEF's Cresta 3**s combine dynamics and insight, while Acoustic Energy's similarly talented **Aegis Two**s impress with their cohesive and even-handed nature. **Mission's m73**s are the most exciting sounding speakers in this test and will pep up a dull sounding system with ease. **Monitor Audio's Bronze 3**s are superb all-rounders, but major on insight over short-term thrills. They combine an articulate sound with fine resolution to produce a highly appealing sonic performance. Yet they are pipped at the post by **Wharfedale's Diamond 8.3**s. These balance a gloriously natural-sounding midrange with refinement and dynamics to create the best all-rounder in the group.

BEST BUILD/COMPATIBILITY

Only the **Polk**s really disappoint on the build front, not least because of their high price. Of the rest, the **Yamaha**s are neatly put together, while the **Acoustic Energy Aegis Two**s have the fit and finish we'd expect from the next price class up. However, for outright build and attention to detail, the **Monitor Audio's Bronze 3**s top this section.

Compatibility is less of an issue; most price compatible amplifiers will be happy with any of these speakers. Even those with 4ohm impedances won't prove a problem at normal volume levels. However, sonic flaws are harder to accommodate, so balanced performers get higher marks. While the AEs, KEFs, Missions and MAs get honourable mentions, it's the **Wharfedale**s that come out tops.

for a complete list of manufacturers' phone numbers, turn to p292

Try it with these

We build a great system around the Wharfedale Diamond 8.3s

Arcam DiVA CD72 £400 ★★★★★
Rega Brio £298 ★★★★★
Wharfedale Diamond 8.3 £200 ★★★★★
As a system £898

If you're after a magic formula for system building that works every time, forget it. But there are a few sensible guidelines, including our usual advice that you split your total budget for a new system equally among the principal components.

And guess what? This system completely ignores that principle, and still works beautifully. Which just goes to show that there isn't any substitute for listening before you buy.

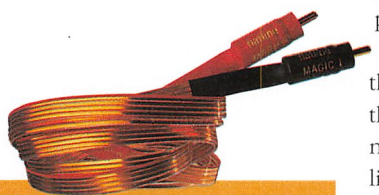
In the days of vinyl, the norm was to spend the most on your source component, simply because the sonic ability of turntables increased massively with your outlay. So mid- and high-end decks were far superior to their budget brethren. But this is sometimes less the case with CD players.

Yet we have good reason to front this set-up with Arcam's formidable £400 DiVA CD72. It's the holder of the highest award we can give a CD player, the Product Of The Year, so it's fair to say that we like it, a lot. There's no rocket science here, just solid engineering combined with fine build. We haven't heard another machine anywhere near this price that combines dynamics, timing and resolution to such great effect. The result is a beautifully musical performance that grabs your attention and keeps it.

Rega's Brio integrated amp continues the Arcam's good work. It's a simple device with just three line-level inputs, a moving magnet phono stage and a power output of 38 watts per channel. But don't let the simple face fool you: this is an amp of considerable ability. While refined, it doesn't lack attack – it just plays music with no fuss and plenty of panache. Timing is particularly surefooted, and this ensures that the sparkle in upbeat music is not lost.

It might seem unfair to expect £200 floorstanders to live up to the standards of such electronics, but that's exactly what the Diamond 8.3s do. The preceding pages show that they lead the class when it comes to all-round sonic performance, and this system proves that these towers can deliver in pricier partnerships than you'd expect.

Sure, it takes a bit of effort to get optimal results. The 8.3s perform at their best a little out from the rear wall, allowing them to breathe and avoiding the congestion caused by use near your room boundaries. A little toe-in helps to sharpen stereo imaging, while biwiring opens out the higher frequencies and improves overall resolution. Be sure to optimise the electronics: both the CD player and amp will sound best on a dedicated rack, and connected via good-quality cables. Take care, and the results are great.



GETTING WIRED

This even-handed set-up deserves an even-handed choice in cabling. We'd go for Kimber PBJ (£71/m) interconnect for its resolution and dynamics, and QED's Silver Anniversary Biwire speaker cable (£8.50/m) for its clarity.

There's an authority to the sound that belies the modest speakers and the system's price tag. It comes to the fore when playing large-scale works such as Mahler's *Symphony No 10*, where the orchestra seems to have a physical presence beyond the limits of the listening room. Helping matters is a bass performance that packs considerable extension and weight. An album Like R Kelly's *R* needs a system with impressive rhythmic

It may break the usual rules, but the combination of Arcam, Rega and Wharfedale makes for a well balanced, powerful-sounding system

drive and low-end punch, and that's exactly what this set-up provides. A luscious midrange highlights Kelly's smooth vocal style, while having the separation needed to milk the backing harmonies for their worth.

Move up to the higher frequencies and you'll find a pleasing mix of insight and refinement. There's enough bite to do justice to transients such as a snare drum, but the system never turns nasty, even when it's provoked by rough, gruff recordings such as Ice T's *Original Gangster*.

So there you have it. This is a reasonably priced system that succeeds on multiple levels. It has all the essentials pegged: timing is spot-on, as are dynamics, resolution and refinement. Sure, more money will buy better results, but for the money this combo is hard to beat: for under £1000, you're getting a great hi-fi set-up.

Air Force One's cinema special

This Royal Air Force officer seeks to add cinema surround sound to his hi-fi separates system

What have you got?

Marantz CD 80 CD player
Rotel RC980/RB980 pre and power amplifiers
Toshiba SD 9000 DVD player
Mission 765 loudspeakers
Sony KV32FQ75U television
Kenwood KX 5010 cassette player
Kenwood KT 2010 tuner

The door of the dusty, dark office swung open. There, as ever, sat the dilapidated old tape machine alone on the centre of the shabby desk. What would the mission be this month? As the key on the battered deck was pressed down its motor whirred noisily into action and a mysterious male voice filled the room. Turned out it belonged to Mo Ahmed, an officer in the Royal Air Force. Said he was some kinda warfare engineer working up at the RAF's Strike Command. The guy was in big trouble and needed our help...

What's the problem?

Returning to reality we found out this month's rescuee Mo has steadily assembled his substantial separates set-up over the past dozen years or so. Working as he does with electronics, he's keen to keep abreast of the latest technology. To this end he recently purchased a Toshiba DVD player, together with a Sony television. He now wants to go the whole hog and sort out a "full-blown surround system".

Trouble is, as he's a member of Her Majesty's forces, he and his young family never tend to be stationed in one place for more than two years. Therefore, potential purchases "need to be adaptable to new room layouts", as the Ahmeds are always living in different houses. It would seem size and flexibility are the watchwords here.

Finally, our officer loves a good deal, so getting great performance for reasonable money is another high priority. As Mo says we should bear in mind he has "a few more mouths to feed compared to 12 years ago".

Mo's first move into home cinema was the purchase of a strapping 32in widescreen TV

What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision suggests...

Let's get the easy part out of the way first. There's plenty of life left in Mo's massive floorstanding Mission speakers and the demands of home cinema should prove no problem for these behemoths, so we'll hang on to them.

As for their surround sound partners? Well, not only will such units need to offer great performance at an equally pleasing

price, but they should also be supremely compact and fabulously flexible. Fortuitously, one company currently produces excellent home cinema speakers meeting just this criteria. Its name? Mission.

The British manufacturer's Award-winning £200 77C centre and £200 77DS rears are exactly what Mo needs. The fact that the same company will therefore supply all the speakers also means there should be few problems in terms of voicing.

As for amplification, there are various ways to approach our serviceman's predicament. As size is an issue, we should really try to reduce the number of components in Mo's already cluttered equipment rack. Rather than add an extra bit of kit we suggest getting rid of his bulkiest bits, the pre/power combo, as well as the tuner, and replacing them with a one-box solution. Enter Rotel's £1000 RSX-972 AV receiver. For comparison we also have Harman Kardon's beautiful £900 AVR 7000 AV receiver to hand.

And the AVR 7000 was the first product our serviceman tried, the WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION helpmobile having arrived in his home town of High Wycombe. With the Missions set up and "swords and sandals" classic *Gladiator* spinning on the DVD player it certainly impressed the RAF officer with its clarity and, especially, attack. At last, Mo had cinema in the home and he loved it.

But after a while he began to find the sound "a bit harsh". Such reservations were confirmed when listening to Dire Straits' *On Every Street* disc through his faithful Marantz CD player. "The track hasn't got the warmth I'm used to. It's not a great sound," he declared.

Moreover, Mo wasn't convinced by the bulky proportions of the undeniably luxurious Harmon. Our one-box-solution argument wasn't cutting much mustard here. "The sheer size of the machine is ridiculous," our engineer concluded.

Maybe the Rotel would fare better. Certainly the beautifully built unit was more to Mo's liking in terms of size and styling. Equally, the "very different sound" when watching *Gladiator* was an improvement, the performance being less aggressive. Not that the Rotel lacked muscle, rather it just didn't flex it all the time. "Superb", opined our rescuee at the first battle scene. "A far superior piece of kit."

And how did it fare with music? With Barenaked Ladies' *One Week* spinning on the Marantz results were well rounded, and while vocals sounded "perky" they never became "harsh". So we had a result? Not quite. Mo wasn't convinced the Rotel receiver was "as good as my old pre/power combo".

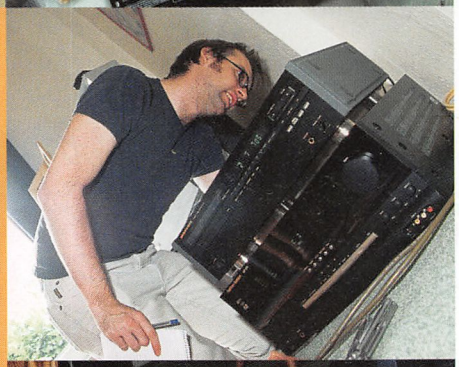
THE STORY SO FAR...

1989 The first deal is done as Mo grabs a Kenwood tape deck, tuner and amplifier, along with his pair of Mission speakers at a knock-down price.

1992 Mo manages to haggle a half-price deal on Marantz's CD 80 silver disc spinner.

1995 Fancying an upgrade, our serviceman ditches the Kenwood integrated for a classier Rotel pre/power combo.

2001 Mo pulls off another stunning deal, landing Toshiba's terrific SD 9000 DVD player for a mere £350, and acquires the whopping Sony KV32FQ75U 32in telly.



Young Miss Ahmed watches Daddy and the funny magazine man play with their new toys

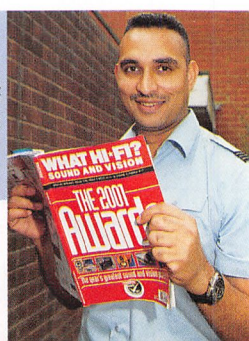
Conclusion

Mo was more than happy with the Mission speakers' performance. Modest size and price tags, plus the fact that the rears are wall mountable, also counted in their favour. The AV receivers proved more problematic. The one-box solution was fine in theory, but not in reality. Certainly they offered great flexibility, but Mo wasn't sure they offered the best value or performance.

An alternative would be a processor like Yamaha's DSP-E800, our current AV processor product of the year. Connect it to your stereo amp's tape-loop sockets and your old hi-fi looks after business as normal, while the Yamaha drives the centre and two surrounds.

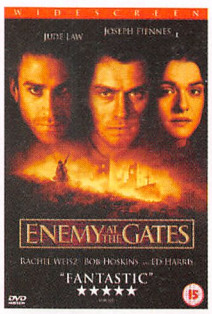
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE FEATURED?

Send a note of your system and your problem to: Reader Rescue, WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION, 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0JE



WIN!

A complete home cinema and *Enemy at the Gates* DVDs



To celebrate the release of the acclaimed *Enemy at the Gates* on VHS and DVD on 19th November, we've teamed up with Pathé Distribution Limited to offer an exclusive home cinema prize.

Enter and you could walk away with VideoLogic's new DTS DigiTheatre surround sound system plus a JVC widescreen TV and DVD player – worth a grand total of £1250 – and a copy of the *Enemy at the Gates* DVD, worth £20. Ten runners-up will also each receive the DVD.

Enemy at the Gates is an epic thriller centering on the real-life conflict between a Russian sniper (Jude Law) and his German rival (Ed Harris) during the pivotal Battle of Stalingrad in 1942. The Russian's exploits are lauded by a propagandist (Joseph Fiennes), who ironically finds himself fighting his own war – for the love of a female comrade (Rachel Weisz) – with the hero he's created.

The DVD offers both Dolby Digital 5.1 and top-quality DTS soundtracks – you'll get the full benefits of the latter with the new VideoLogic DTS DigiTheatre surround system. This £400 all-in-one boasts six dedicated surround sound speakers, including a powerful subwoofer and an integrated multichannel amp. For more info: www.videologic.com.

To complete our home cinema prize, we have JVC's AV24WTS, a feature-packed 24in widescreen supplied with stand, plus a matching XV-S42SL DVD player.

Fancy your chances? All you have to do is answer the question below, complete the form and send it (or a photocopy) to us by 17th December 2001.

COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Question *Enemy at the Gates* centres on the battle for which city?
☐ Paris ☐ Stalingrad ☐ Berlin ☐ Rome

Tie-break: "I want surround sound because.....
......"

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Daytime phone number

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
Pathé competition
38-42 Hampton Road
Teddington
Middlesex, TW11 0JE

TERMS & CONDITIONS
The closing date for entries is 17/12/01. Entrants must be resident in the UK. The winner will be the entrant who most accurately answers the question. In the event of a tie, the prizes will be awarded to the entrant who, in the opinion of the judges, have provided the most relevant tie breaker, by 17/12/01. All entries must be submitted via the entry form above. All prize winners will be notified within 2 weeks of the draw. No cash alternative or substitute prizes will be allowed. The competition organisers reserve the right to supply a prize of similar value and specification if the named prize is unavailable. The decision of the organisers is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Information on the winners of the competition will be available 2 weeks after the published closing date and will be supplied upon the receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. This promotion is open to all UK residents except employees and relatives of the promoters: Haymarket Publishing Limited and Pathé Distribution Limited. No purchase necessary.
❑ If you prefer not to receive further information from selected companies, please tick here.

LOEWE.

Home cinema without the horror

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO MAKING THE MOST OF DVD

DVD can bring real cinema performance into your home, but are you exploiting the format's potential to the full? If you've just plugged the player into a TV set, you've hardly started: there's so much more you can extract from your discs.

There's no reason why you can't go for a genuine cinema in your room. A large-screen projector, when coupled to a high-performance DVD player, can deliver image sizes of 7ft or more, able to amaze with their sharpness, clarity and colour rendition, as well as their sheer scale, of course. To find out more, turn to our projectors feature starting on p100.

As for sound, top-end home cinema amplifier and speaker packages are perfectly capable of delivering enough energy to lift the roof, with thunderous dynamics, rich, full bass and massive punch when called for. We've put together just one example of a top-flight system (see p60), but quite frankly, the sky is the limit.

However, you don't have to spend a fortune to build a great home cinema system: start with a decent DVD player and a big widescreen TV. Our minimum recommended size for widescreen sets is 28in, but if your room and budget allow it, you should go for a 32in design.

Why? Because films made using the very widest screen shapes can appear "slot-like" when viewed on a widescreen set unless the screen is of a decent size. You can struggle to see what's going on from a distance, which is important if you have a large living room.

As for positioning the TV, you should sit at a distance of between five and eight times the screen height of your set. The centre of your screen should be around eye height when seated (or higher than many TV stands), so it's worth considering an aftermarket stand that raises your set up a little, if you can.

WHAT'S ON THE DISC?

A standard DVD-Video disc is composed of two thin layers of plastic, each 0.6mm thick, which are bonded together to form a disc the same depth (1.2mm) and diameter (12cm) as a CD. Data is stored in a series of microscopic digital "pits", using the MPEG2 compression system, to achieve a vast increase in data storage capacity over CD. CDs hold 650MB (megabytes), while DVDs hold at least 4.7GB (Gigabytes). This vast storage space means a DVD can hold movie-quality audio, in full digital surround sound, coupled to a full-length movie in extremely high-quality video.

STARTING OUT TV AND DVD

Once you've settled on a widescreen TV to suit, all you need do is connect your DVD player to it, using the Scart connection method (Scart is a type of socket and cable that sends both sound and vision), and you're away. Here's a basic system to get you started.

The entry-level system

32in Nicam TV

Toshiba 32Z13B £900

★★★★★ (*First Tests*, page 11)

The Toshiba might lack some of the gadgetry of flagship 100Hz TVs, but it still delivers a high-quality 32in picture, thanks in part to a very black screen and a flat, minimal-reflection picture tube. It has a good array of sockets, and most importantly, good sound quality for a Nicam set. Bass power is considerable, voices have good clarity, and the set's chassis is respectably rattle-free. As your first bigger-screen set, it has much to offer.

DVD player

Toshiba SD-210E £230

★★★★★

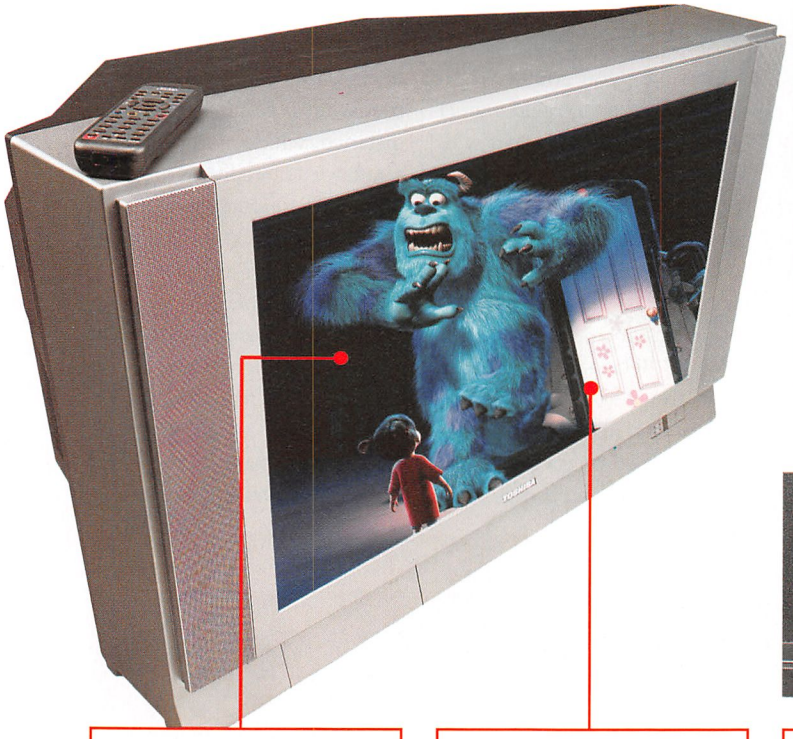
What else can we say about our favourite entry-level DVD player? This year's Best Buy in the budget category, it offers outstanding performance, especially in terms of picture. Colours look gorgeous, blacks have strong, rich depth, and there's bags of detail. The RGB Scart option is best in this particular set-up, although for even more performance, especially with projectors and plasmas, you can also use the SD-210E's component video outputs. It's performance-enhancing features like these, quite apart from its own abilities at the price, that make the SD-210E such a cracking buy: it has the ability to grow to meet your needs, and delivers the goods in fine style.

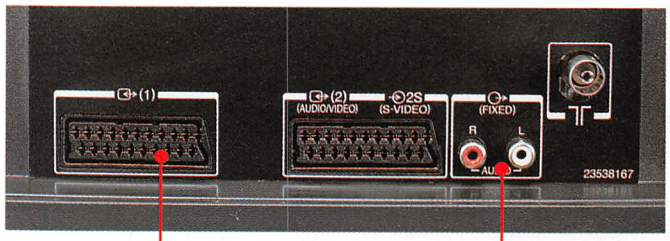
What's the picture like?

It's outstandingly lifelike, given the price. You get a good sense of scale and impact, thanks to the size of the image and the minimal screen curvature, and the "depth of field" – that sense of three-dimensionality that good photographs provide – is exemplary. You feel part of the picture, wrapped up in it, and that's a big part of the point. Images look crisp too, although not as razor-sharp as on some pricier sets (that's one of the key reasons for spending more), but on the upside, you can't complain about the colours, which always look lively and vivid.

How about the sound?

The Toshiba duo sounds fine, within the limitations of the TV. Of course, you don't get any surround sound capability with this set, but the 32Z13B still delivers decent bass extension, and goes quite loud without sounding unduly strained. Clarity is respectable too, although in very complex passages some elements of dialogue can become a little hard to pick up – but that's an insurmountable problem when small speakers try to relay lots of information at once.





Flat tube

Compared to the curved screens used in older sets, flat-tube designs have less susceptibility to reflection, less distortion of images towards the screen's edges, and generally provide better depth of field.

NTSC playback

If you're planning to purchase a multiregion DVD player, then look for a TV set that allows true NTSC replay. Discs from the USA use the NTSC colour system, unlike our TVs, which use the PAL colour system.

Scart sockets

These 21-pin sockets accept a single connector, a Scart cable, that can carry both vision and sound. Scart is capable of transmitting most forms of video signal, including the high-performance RGB system.

Stereo audio outputs

These RCA phono sockets, as found on any CD player, deliver stereo audio into an external amplifier. Connect your amp to these sockets, using a pair of interconnect cable, and you'll hear an instant sonic improvement.

How easy is it to use?

Fair. Neither remote handset is exactly a model of clarity, being a little too button-laden for comfort, and you don't get any backlighting or other niceties either. The on-screen displays on both the player and the set are fine, but for ultimate convenience, we'd opt for an aftermarket universal remote as a decent upgrade.

Can I upgrade later?

Yes, very easily. The TV set has phono outputs to hook up an add-on amplifier later, while the DVD player is laden with output options. You can connect it into a surround amp using the digital outputs, connect it to a projector using the component video sockets, or run it into a hi-fi system using the phono outputs.

FIVE TOP TIPS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS SYSTEM

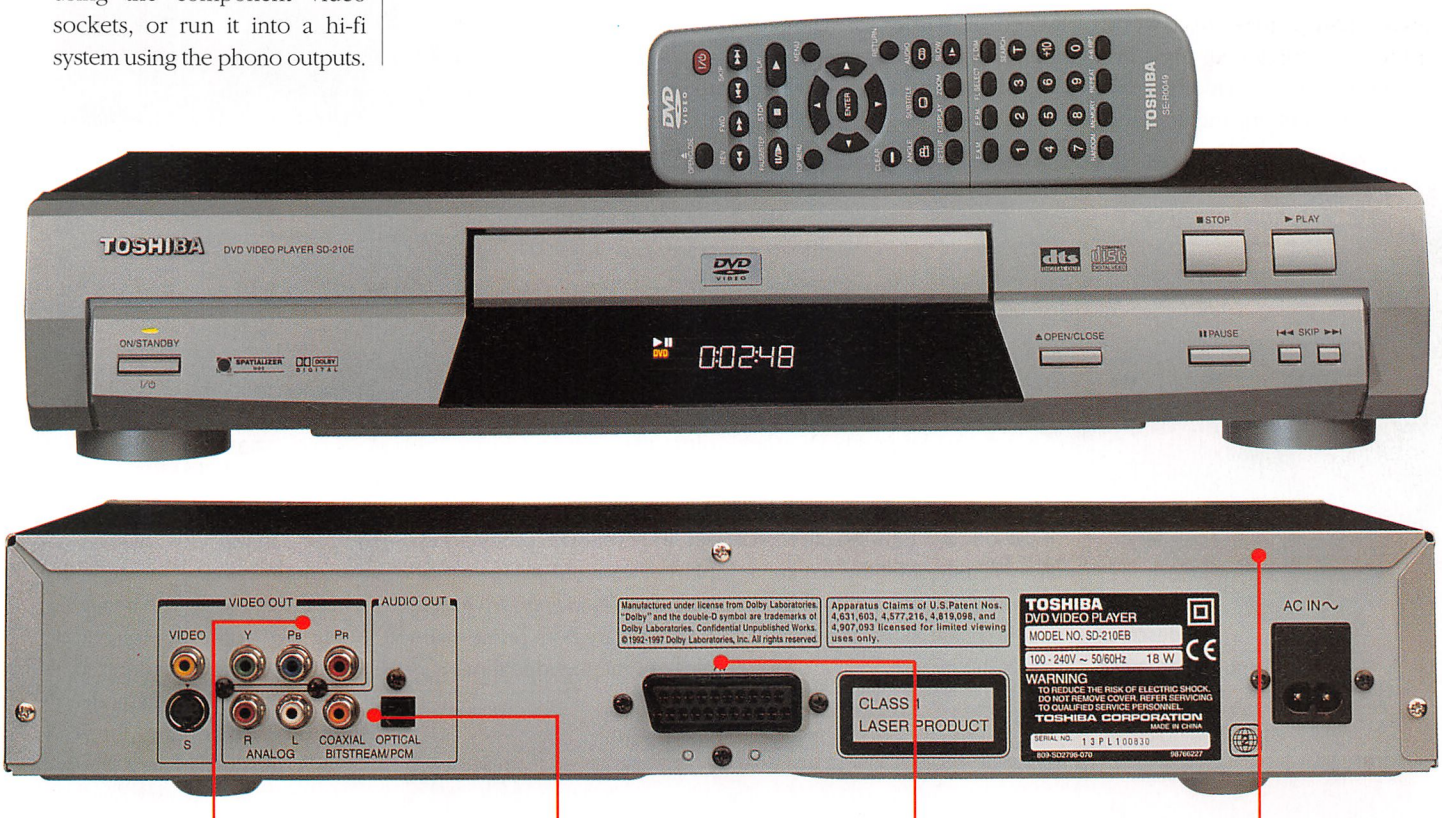
■ Make sure you set the correct aspect ratios on both the TV set and the DVD player. Use the on-screen menus to set 16:9 on the DVD player, and Wide on the TV. This will access the anamorphic coding (also known as enhancement for widescreen sets) on the disc, and deliver a properly-shaped, more detailed picture.

■ Buy a decent Scart cable. These cost from £20, going up to £40, and will deliver both a better picture and better sound than any freebie cable supplied in the box. It's one of the best investments you can make in your DVD viewing.

■ Set the downmix on the DVD player's audio output. You do this by turning the digital output off, selecting analogue audio instead, on the on-screen menus. This will ensure that the SD-210E delivers a correctly-formatted version of the movie soundtrack into the TV set.

■ Select RGB on the SD-210E's on-screen menus, via the video section of the top navigation bar. This form of video transfer separates colour information into its three constituent elements, red, green and blue, and gives a better picture as a result. Ensure that you plug the DVD player into the correct Scart input on the TV's rear, too; it'll be marked RGB on the rear panel.

■ Set up your TV picture correctly. For more details on how, see our "Widescreen in full" section overleaf.



Component video outputs

If you want to, these sockets allow for an easy upgrade to even better picture performance when connected to a still-larger-screen display, such as a plasma or a projector. Good to have for future upgrades.

Digital outputs

You won't need them in this set-up, but the Toshiba's digital outputs (one optical, the other coaxial) are vital for upgrading to digital surround audio. Connect them to a home cinema amp, and you're away.

RGB-enabled Scart socket

The Toshiba might only have one Scart socket, but it can be set to deliver pictures via the RGB system, which is the best option in the context of this system for sending pictures from the player to TV set.

Dual-focus mechanism (inside player)

The Toshiba can play CD-R discs, and delivers reasonable CD sound, because it has a dual-focus mechanism, which switches between DVD and CD laser 'apertures' as appropriate.

MAKING THE MOST OF WIDESCREEN TV

Despite what you may think, not every film comes in widescreen. Film makers use a whole variety of screen shapes and sizes, few of which match the shape, or aspect ratio, of a widescreen TV.

In the early days of cinema, filmmakers used the 4:3 screen shape, also known in film circles as The Academy Ratio. You can also express 4:3 as 1.33:1 – in other words, for every 1.33 units of width, there's one of height. When television first emerged, manufacturers and broadcasters simply adopted the same 1.33:1 ratio as the cinema. However, in the early 1950s, Hollywood, feeling threatened by TV's onward march, decided to break with convention, and adopted a series of ever-wider aspect ratios to make the cinema experience more special.

After some experimentation, these settled down into two main variations: Letterbox, or 1.85:1, and Cinemascope, or 2.35:1. Clearly, neither of these two shapes would fit easily on to a conventional 1.33:1 TV screen.

Films come in different screen sizes

When the idea of widescreen TV was first mooted, it was decided to adopt an intermediate ratio, somewhere between 1.33:1 and 1.85:1. The reason was simple: a full-sized Letterbox TV shape would be harder to manufacture, and would also result in a lot of screen wastage when displaying normal 1.33:1 material. The result? The 1.77:1 ratio, or 16:9, known as widescreen.

The upshot is that when you watch DVDs on a widescreen TV, the results you see are dependent on the aspect ratio of the original film. A Letterbox film will almost fill the screen; a Cinemascope one will still have visible black bars above and below the picture.

Go widescreen for a bigger image

However, anamorphic coding can help. Using a special process that digitally squeezes picture information inwards and upwards, anamorphic coding means that Letterbox DVDs will completely fill the picture on a widescreen TV. It also helps reduce the size of the black bars on a Cinemascope movie – but it cannot get rid of them completely.

Troubleshooting guide

Why do I still get black bars on the screen?

Check that you have set the DVD player to output a correctly-formatted picture – a 16:9 image. This will access the anamorphic coding on the disc, if it is present. If you still get black bars, there are two possible reasons: one, that the movie doesn't contain anamorphic coding at all (rare, but it does happen from time to time); and two, that the film uses the 2.35:1, or Cinemascope, aspect ratio. This is wider than any widescreen TV set, and even when correctly displayed, it should still have black bars. *Star Wars Episode One* and *Gladiator* are both prime examples of Cinemascope films.

1.33:1 ratio

1.78:1 ratio

1.85:1 ratio

2.35:1 ratio

Why do things look tall and thin?

You're trying to watch a non-anamorphic movie in widescreen mode: the image is being electronically squeezed even though it shouldn't be. Reset the player's set-up mode to suit the disc, opting for 4:3 Letterbox instead of 16:9.

Why is the film black and white?

This tends to happen when you're playing imported American DVDs. Ensure that your TV is capable of handling a NTSC colour signal, the US broadcasting standard. If it isn't, set your DVD player to output a PAL60 or Pseudo-PAL picture, which will restore colour.

FIVE TOP TIPS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR PICTURE

- With the lights out, reduce the brightness on your TV to roughly 35 per cent.
- Set contrast to roughly 65 per cent. This should leave whites bright, but not flaring.
- Turn sharpness controls off. Not down – off. Sharpness controls artificially intensify certain areas of screen detail, but they do so at the expense of fine-detail resolution.
- Turn off Artificial Intelligence, Digital Noise Reduction or any other digital picture-enhancing modes. These can cause smearing or digital noise, the image moving jerkily over the screen.
- Play something with lots of red/orange shades. *Total Recall, Dances With Wolves* and *Red Planet* all work well. Reduce the colour until red looks red, but fleshtones look natural, rather than bright pink.

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THE NEXT STEP ADDING A RECEIVER AND SPEAKERS

While our basic starter system will certainly deliver enough big-screen entertainment for most viewers' needs, it doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of true movie-quality audio. For that, you need to add a dedicated home cinema amplifier, and a set of loudspeakers – but the good news is that this can be done very affordably.

The key element is an amp equipped with some form of digital surround sound decoding capability. These days, it's the norm to find even budget designs capable of handling both Dolby Digital and DTS 5.1 surround audio (see panel right), and this is the basic spec you should look for. Simply connect your DVD player's digital output, which is clearly marked on the rear panel, into the surround amplifier's rear, using a suitable digital interconnect cable (these cost from £20), and you're away.

As for loudspeakers, the basic minimum requirement is five. These will deliver an effective surround soundfield, with two speakers in the traditional stereo location either side of the TV, a third providing dialogue in the centre of the soundfield, and two more handling rear-effects information. You can also add a subwoofer for extra bass.

SURROUND SOUND OPTIONS

DVD can deliver movie sound every bit as good as that found in proper cinemas. Here's the low-down on digital surround audio.

Dolby Digital 5.1

The most common surround audio on DVDs, Dolby Digital 5.1 offers five separate audio signals, or channels, of sound for the main five speakers (left, centre, right, left rear and right rear), coupled to a sixth dedicated bass channel for use with a sub.

DTS 5.1

A very similar system to Dolby Digital 5.1, although superior in some technical terms. DTS transfers data at a higher rate per second, uses less compression, and offers a higher bit rate.

Dolby Digital Surround EX

Licensed through Lucasfilm THX, this offers extended-surround performance, with a matrixed centre-rear channel of audio that is electronically buried within the surround channels of 5.1 audio. This gives you more depth, spaciousness and ambience, but requires at least one extra rear speaker.

DTS-ES Matrix 6.1

Similar in concept to Dolby Digital Surround EX. As with the Dolby system, this offers improved surround steering, greater depth behind your head, and more ambience.

DTS-ES Discrete 6.1

The only true 6.1 audio system. Six channels give a dedicated centre-rear signal to complement the conventional five.

The mid-price system

AV receiver

Denon AVR-1602 £300

★★★★★

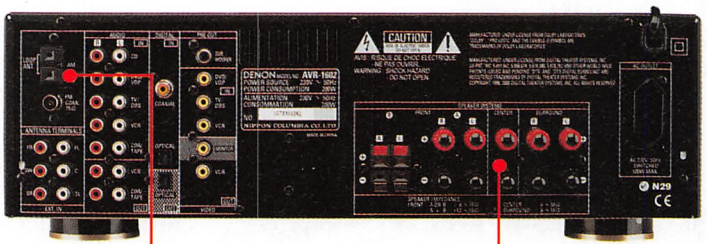
The latest budget offering from Denon, the AVR-1602 is supremely well-equipped, offering Pro-Logic II audio for use with TV broadcasts and VHS tapes, to complement internal Dolby Digital and DTS audio for DVD users. It has ample power, at 70W per channel, and includes all the sockets, outputs and features most users need. It delivers ambient effects especially well, handes subtle details effectively, and still has ample drive for action-lovers too.

Speaker package

Mission Cinema m72 £400

★★★★★

One of the biggest bargains in home cinema, the Mission package comprises a pair of the hefty m72 stand-mounted main speakers (you'll need to buy stands as an extra, by the way – they cost from £50), coupled to a matching m7c centre speaker and a pair of sophisticated m7DS rears. These surround speakers fire sounds in two directions at once, which delivers a better wrap-around effect of surround information than is typical for most budget packages. This system really has the lot for the price: good clarity, ample bass, and very good integration from speaker to speaker (sounds remain tonally similar throughout). It's a winner.



Dolby Digital and DTS

The Denon is equipped with internal digital surround decoding for the two key audio systems used on most DVDs. This will give you very decent home cinema sound, and makes the most of your discs.

Ample power

Five 70W channels of power is more than adequate for most standard-sized living rooms. If you want your movies to sound large and dynamic, the Denon easily has the muscle to cope. You might not need more.

Digital inputs

The AVR-1602 has both coaxial and optical digital inputs, so you can connect in any DVD player easily. In this particular system, use the coaxial socket if you can as this type of connection sounds better than optical.

Binding post terminals

The Denon sports decent binding-post speaker terminals for every main speaker output. This makes it much easier for you to use decent speaker cable. Avoid the cheaper springclip terminals used on some other amps.

What does the amp give me?
Enough power for most living rooms, sophisticated surround sound processing and decoding, and a high standard of both build and facilities. It's easy to use and looks good, too.

Why is it a good choice?
Partially because it excels in surround mode, but also because it's capable of playing a tune in stereo (which remains a rarity in surround receivers), so that in addition to building a great home cinema, you'll also be getting a passable hi-fi set-up.

Where should the speakers go?
Try to get the main front speakers, the m72s, in position equidistant from the centre of the TV screen. Ideally, they need to be on the same plane, both horizontally and vertically, and at least half a metre from either side of the tube (preferably more). The centre channel speaker can sit on top of the set, but it's best employed underneath it. Try to ensure that it's tilted slightly upwards, so that the face of the speaker is pointing at your ears when you're seated.

The rear speakers can go either on the rear wall, or the side wall, depending on your room layout. The key is to ensure that they have at least half a metre of space from any corner. Side-firing drive units need a little room to breathe, to give you the best surround effect. Height is good, too; if you can mount them high in the room then you'll get a better ambient effect.

How easy is it to set up?
Not hard, as long as you take your time. The Denon's menu screen takes you through the basic steps. Set the front speakers to "large", the centre speaker to "small", and the rear speakers to "small"; turn the subwoofer output off, and then measure the distance from each speaker to your seat. Enter those details into the Denon, and this will automatically set the correct delay time into the processor. This ensures that sounds reach your ears in the proper order. With all that done, use your ears, or a test tone meter, to adjust the volume level of each speaker to the same volume from your seated position. Then switch the DVD player's digital output back on.

FIVE TOP TIPS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS SYSTEM

- Ensure the digital output on your DVD player is correctly set on the menu.
- Purchase a decent digital interconnect (from £20).
- Wire the speakers correctly, and set each one to the correct size on the Denon's set-up menu.
- Position each speaker as best you can in your room.
- Enter in the distance details for each speaker.
- Use the test-tone built into the receiver to adjust your sound levels properly.

Sophisticated rear speakers
The m7DS rears are bipole designs. This means that they can fire surround sound in two directions at once, which helps them to produce a more convincing surround sound effect than conventional hi-fi speakers.

Discreet centre speaker
The m7c centre is unusually compact, especially in height, which makes it easy to house in many TV stands. If you do have to site it on top of the telly, it's less obtrusive than bigger boxes, too.

Powerful front speakers
The m72 front speakers are large for standmounted designs, which helps them to deliver considerable bass energy. They can be set to "large" on the Denon's set-up menu, unlike many rivals, for better dynamics.

Good integration
The Mission package uses the same type of tweeter (high frequency driver) throughout the package, which means it gives better integration of sound as information pans around the room.

THE FINAL STEP
THE ULTIMATE HOME CINEMA SYSTEM

Is it possible to put together an even more impressive DVD-based home cinema system? You bet. If money's no object, a top-of-the-range DVD player and amplifier, plus a projector for the ultimate cinema image, are what you need – plus of course a highly capable speaker package.

To whet your appetite even further, we've put together just one example of a top-flight system (see panel below).

Why go for a projector?
The biggest conventional TV you can get is a 36in widescreen, from the likes of Sony, Panasonic, Toshiba and Hitachi. All fine and dandy, but it's not quite cinema. If you want to go larger and retain a TV-style functionality in your living room, then you can consider a rear-projection TV, which offers a larger screen – typically 40 to 50in – and remains relatively affordable, or a plasma display. Plasmas look gorgeous, but are costly (at least £4500 for a decent one). Projectors give a much bigger screen image, and are more affordable (see p100).

How easy are they to live with?
Not as hard as you'd think. A compact design like the Yamaha can be installed relatively easily, and offers a massive picture – at least 6ft – for the money. A darkened room is a must for optimum performance, but since this only adds to the cinema feel, we're not complaining. And a decent screen is vital – a white wall is not adequate for this level of performance.

Why do I need component video capability on my DVD player?
Projectors don't use the Scart connector system found on TVs. If you want to get the best possible picture out of a DVD player with the vast majority of projectors, you need to look for a player that has component video. This is a three-cable connector that provides optimum colour separation and detail.

Why should I spend more than £300 on a DVD player?
It will give you advanced video features such as progressive scan. Progressive scan eliminates the visible line structure of a picture, which is vital when it's blown up to big-screen sizes. Currently, the system only works with American NTSC DVD discs, although that may change in the future. Progressive scan is only available through component video sockets.

How about the amp? Do I need a massive amount of power?
Power is not in itself a measure of quality, but great reserves of amplifier power tend to point to effortlessness, a sense of drive and scale that ensures that, whatever the movie soundtrack does, the amplifier can cope.

So, how good is this dream system going to look and sound?
Breathtaking. You'll get a fab picture, thunderous bass and massive dynamics. You can even upgrade the system with an extra pair of surround speakers for 6.1 surround sound.

FIVE TOP TIPS FOR GREAT HOME CINEMA

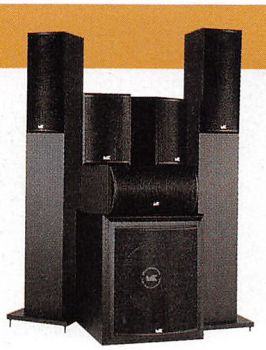
- Go for the biggest, best picture you can afford. Allocate at least half your budget to it.
- Look for a DVD player that has plenty of room for upgrades. If it offers component video and progressive scan, then even better.
- Look for an amplifier, receiver or processor/power amp that allows long-term upgrades to extended-surround, and has plenty of input flexibility.
- Buy speakers from the same company to ensure a matched tonal quality throughout the room. Vital with centre speakers.
- Position your subwoofer carefully in the room, and watch those volume levels. Too much bass is just as harmful as too little.

THE DREAM SYSTEM

Projector
Yamaha DPX-1 DLP £6995
★★★★★ **See test, p109**
The DPX-1 projector delivers one of the finest images available for its price. It uses Digital Light Projection (DLP) technology, which enables it to be relatively compact compared to LCD projectors yet offer very high performance too, and it's fully compatible with progressive scan imagery on US DVDs.

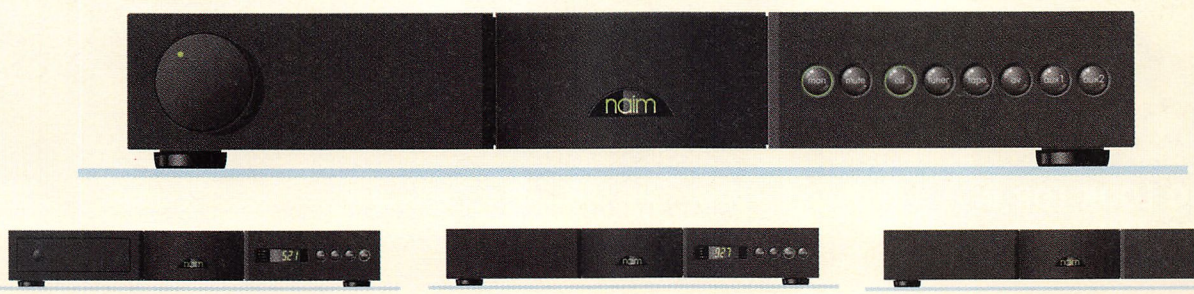
Amplifier
Denon AVC-A1SE £2500
★★★★★
The Denon is the largest, most powerful single-box amplifier we've tested; seven 170W channels of output is more than enough for anyone's living room. It can also handle every current form of surround sound, and the company has announced a recent update to allow it to offer Pro-Logic II audio, too.

DVD player
Denon DVD-2800 £750
★★★★★
One of our favourite luxury DVD players, the big Denon combines outstanding levels of build and features with excellent performance. Most notably, it offers progressive scan picture performance from its component video outputs, which ensures an excellent image when connected to the appropriate display device – such as the fabulous Yamaha.



Speaker package
M&K 750THX £2865
★★★★★
Built to match the THX Select specification, the M&K system has fine integration, strong punch, and a composed, effortless feel. It has ample bass energy, and you can add a second sub if you wish, as well as extra surround speakers to create an extended-surround set-up.

A NEW DAWN



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WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A STEREO AMPLIFIER

It sounds obvious, but make sure the amp has the features you want, especially enough inputs and outputs. Look out for preamp outputs, as adding a power amp is a great way to improve performance in the future. Also, check for other options such as add-on power supplies, as these will protect your investment. Most importantly, trust your ears.

WHAT'S IT GOT?	Arcam	Cyrus	MF	Naim	Roksan
Line level inputs	Five	Six	Five	Three	Five
Phono input	Phono (opt)		mm/mc		
Tape loops	Two	One	One	Three	One
Preout sockets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Two
Tone control	Yes	No	No	No	No
Headphone socket	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Remote control	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Power output (into 8ohms)	85W	60W	85W	30W	70W

The sub-£1000 amplifier category is a fierce battleground. There are some top-notch powerhouses out there, boasting bucketloads of features, connectivity and upgradeability. To help you choose, we've lined up half a dozen of the very best competing for the two-channel crown – and they're all British! But can any of them dethrone our 2001 Best Buy, the Arcam A85?

We tested them with

REFERENCE SYSTEM

CD player **Krell KAV 280cd**

Floorstanders **Wilson Benesch ACT1**

PRICE-COMPATIBLE SYSTEM

Standmount speakers **B&W CDM 1NT**

CD player **Roksan Caspian Mk II**

Arcam A85 £750 ★★★★★

It is easy to understand the success of this two-channel amplifier in our 2001 Awards. Arcam has turned its old design ideas on their head: instead of opting for warmth and safety, it has created an amp that offers excitement by the shedload.

What's more, the Arcam is also fully prepared for any eventuality due to its extensive array of features and options. Along with a second set of speaker outputs, it comes equipped with five line-level inputs and optional phono input as well as two tape loops. Tone control is also available, and integrated features include the option to adjust the volume display.

If that isn't enough, there's also an optional DVD-Audio module on the way, offering multichannel analogue inputs and outputs. However, this has no onboard decoding, so isn't suitable for use with DVD-V players unless they have their own decoders. Arcam says the module is still in development, and won't be available until around April next year.

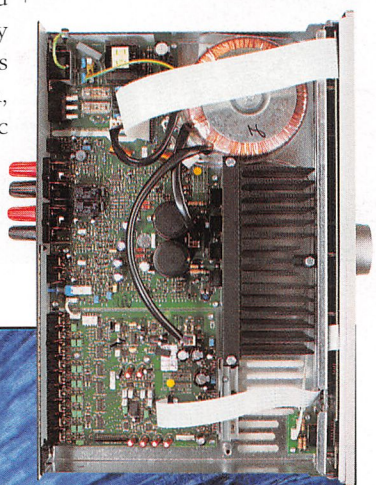
Build quality is also hugely impressive: the smart silver fascia exudes all the qualities of Arcam's DiVA range, and the clear display makes a variety of adjustments simple.

Its gutsy bass is evident across genres

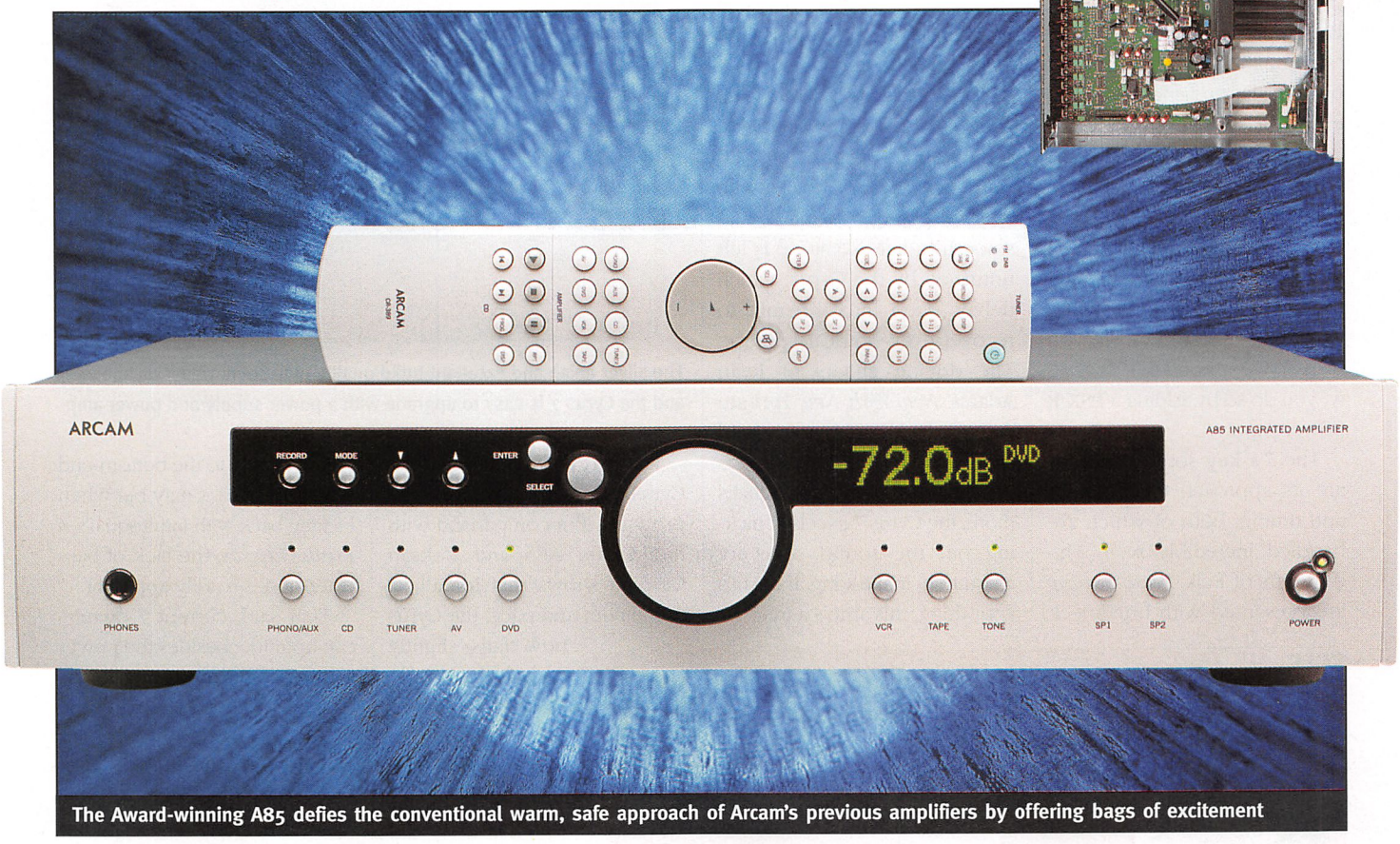
And it doesn't stop there. The A85's sonic performance is mind-blowing. The bass on Muse's *Plug in Baby* hits hard and fast, being handled with agility and pace. This gutsy bass performance extends through the musical spectrum, with dance and classical music benefitting from the A85's superb adaptability.

And for all this, the A85 can still deliver high levels of refinement and subtlety. The clarity of the harmonies on the "Flower Duet" from Delibes's *Lakmé* is striking, with a wonderful balance between the two female voices, and a smooth presentation. The A85 also shows off an impressive dynamic range, conveying movement with accuracy and remaining sensitive to the emotional value of the music.

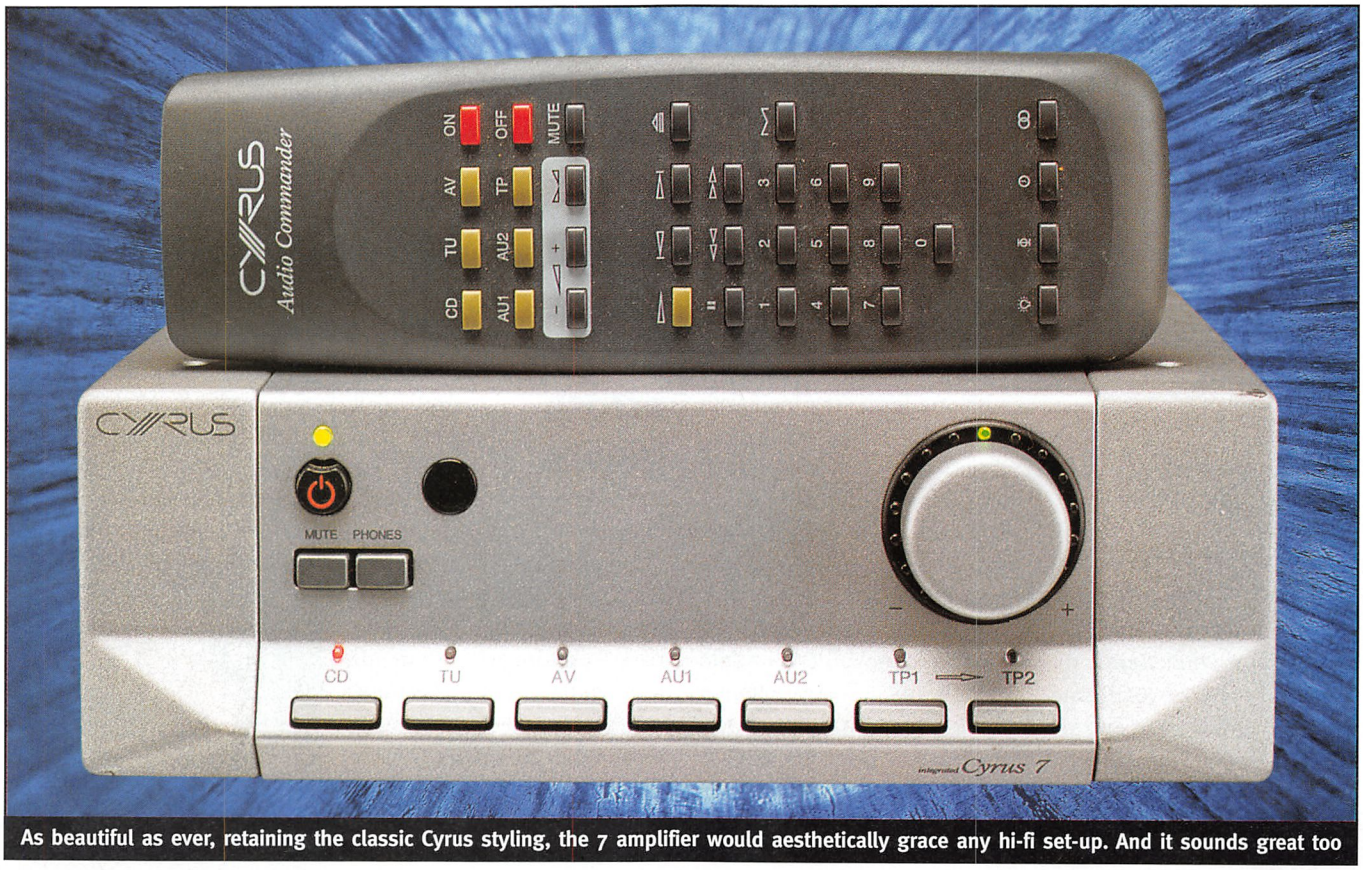
With its stunning sound and fantastic features, the A85 proves a tough challenge for even the best at this price. If you're after an all-rounder, the A85 is it.



Arcam's A85 has an extensive array of features and options



The Award-winning A85 defies the conventional warm, safe approach of Arcam's previous amplifiers by offering bags of excitement



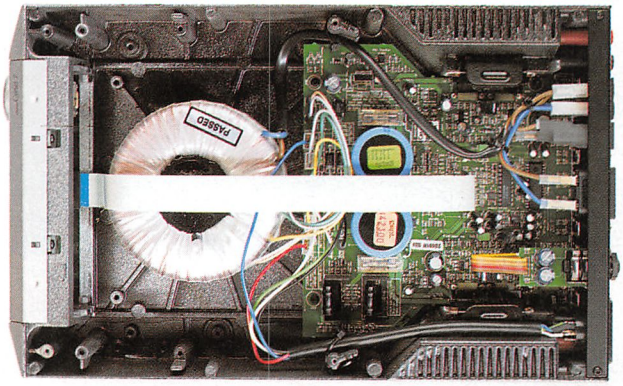
As beautiful as ever, retaining the classic Cyrus styling, the 7 amplifier would aesthetically grace any hi-fi set-up. And it sounds great too

Cyrus 7 £700 ★★★★☆

Packaged in the usual Cyrus "shoebox", the 7 has excellent build quality and enough style to ensure it stands out from the crowd. The silver finish gives the Cyrus a striking appearance and the sturdy die-cast alloy casework reinforces the impression of solidity. If that wasn't enough, the Cyrus 7 has been designed with upgrades in mind: if you want to expand on the 7's ability, you do so by adding a PSX-R power supply.

The 7's key sonic attributes are its approach to dynamics and timing, both of which are handled incredibly well. The dirty riffs of Eels' *Fresh Feeling* are presented with breakneck speed, moving swiftly between light and heavy sections and keeping the rhythm tight.

The 7 also has refinement and control. The midband and treble ensure fine insight into Ed Harcourt's *Apple of My Eye*, with well-weighted piano and smooth hi-hat. No stone is left unturned by the Cyrus, which delves deep into the mix to recover every intricate phrase. The driving guitars of Ryan Adams' *New York, New York* are delivered with prominence, and the subtle vocal harmony is brought to the forefront. What's more, the Cyrus 7 excels at picking out the sound of every instrument in the song. If detail's your thing, this amp's a treat.



The silver finish and excellent build quality hide some clever technology, and the Cyrus 7 is easy to upgrade with a power supply and power amp

It wasn't so long ago that the Cyrus 7 was one of our five-star products. But comparison with the Arcam A85 and Roksan Caspian shows that for all its refinement and pace, the Cyrus 7 now falls slightly short of the mark. Although there's attack and definition in the low-end, the focus is on the upper bass rather than the amp digging deep and giving weight to the bottom-end tones. Tight as it may be, when kicking back with Jamiroquai's *A Funk Odyssey*, the lack of bass extension is readily apparent.

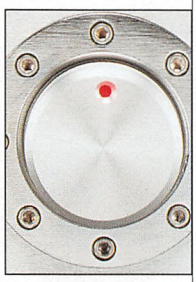
That said, current 7 owners can upgrade: besides the power supply, power amps can also be added to the Cyrus 7 to give the sound a bit more welly. Yes, it's a shade off the ultimate sub-£1000 pace these days, but the Cyrus 7 remains a classy amp with fantastic attributes.

"The dirty riffs of Eels' *Fresh Feeling* are presented with breakneck speed, moving swiftly between light and heavy sections and keeping the rhythm tight"

Musical Fidelity A3 £850

★★★★☆

The Musical Fidelity has seen changes of late, with some minor adjustments to the circuitboard and an upgraded power supply, as well as a facelift that does away with gold trim in favour of silver to match the rest of the amplifier. One of the line level inputs is labelled SACD in keeping with recent hardware and software developments, but otherwise there's the usual tank-like build quality, with exposed bolt heads designed to give a robust impression.



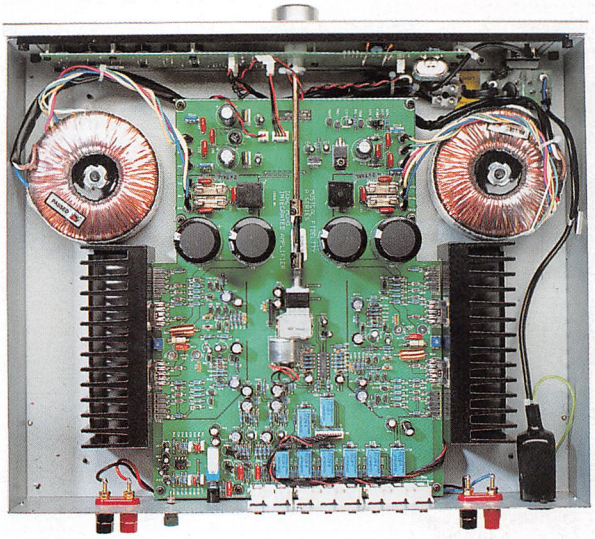
What the A3 does well, it does very well. The midrange of Lowgold's *Mercury* is presented with a richness that coats guitars and vocals and brings them to prominence. This ability is taken further with classical playback, showing impressive depth to the soundstage; orchestras can be pinpointed, and the dynamics and interplay between different groups of instruments shows huge scale. Choral pieces also benefit from being delivered in a dramatic fashion, with the A3 offering both power and transparency.

There's a pleasing punch to heavier rock

However, all that marvellous midrange ability doesn't help the A3 get a grip on low frequencies. Despite there being a pleasing punch to heavier rock tracks, they still sound out of control due to a low end that lacks the level of authority you'd expect from an amp at this price.

The high end has plenty of extra bite, but sometimes lacks finesse, so bright pop recordings can turn harsh.

Although impressive, the new Musical Fidelity is something of a one-trick pony. Should you have wide-ranging musical tastes, you may find that it will disappoint on certain discs.That said, the sweet midrange and inspiring soundstage work tremendously well on classical and more ambient music.



The A3 is a dual mono design with two mains transformers and two power supplies, for improved dynamics and better detail retrieval

Those who mainly listen to classical music will love the A3, with its rich midrange and sense of scale, but it's less forgiving of bright pop

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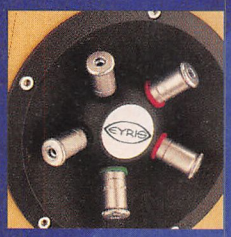

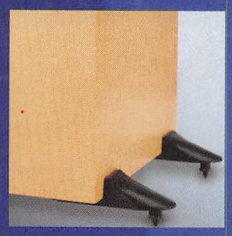

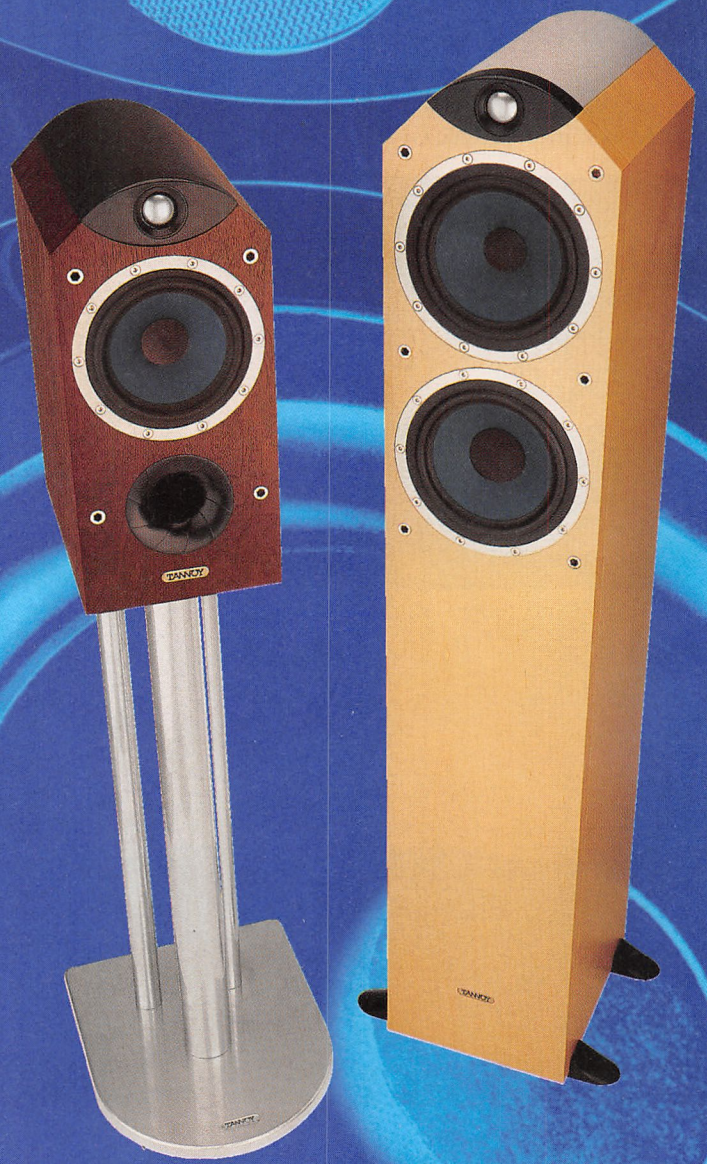

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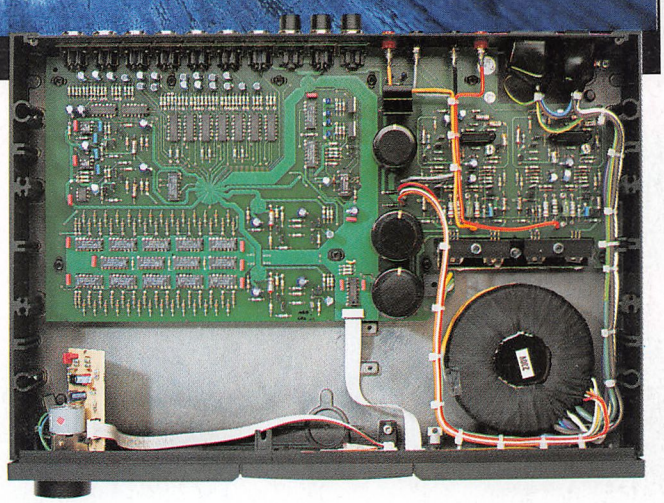
The Naim produces "only" 30W per channel, but it's a thrilling listen

Naim Nait 5 £800 ★★★★☆

In common with many other Naim products, the Nait 5 may be simple in appearance, but build quality is exemplary, and the black finish and green display affords it a distinctive air of understated class.

And it has a big sound. It grapples manfully with the low frequencies, taking firm control over bass-led tracks. Massive Attack's *Angel* is presented with speed and definition, with each seismic thud driven with punch and vigour. Coupled to the sheer bass weight is a real sense of control – meaning that recordings enjoy detail and space.

The Nait 5 embues vocal presentations with warmth. The laidback drawl of Ryan Adams over the course of his *Gold* set is well rounded and natural, as well as giving a good level of depth to the sound.



As ever with Naim, the Nait 5 has an inherently solid build quality

In absolute terms the Nait 5 lacks the levels of transparency attained by other amps in this test, particularly the Arcam and Cyrus, which are more revealing; but the Naim has no problem serving up large doses of enjoyment.

It's important to appreciate that this amplifier has DIN connections, and is designed to be used with Naim NAC 5 speaker cable for optimum performance. And that optimum doesn't come quickly, or even overnight – Naim advises that anything up to 100 hours of running-in is necessary.

The Nait 5 delivers excitement and involvement in droves. Its low frequency heft keeps music moving fast, while the midrange will draw you into the sound. There are flaws that keep it from the top spot, and mean it loses a star, but that doesn't mean it won't appeal. If you love your music with the adrenaline tap turned on to max, you must audition the Nait 5.

DOES MORE WATTS MEAN MORE VOLUME?

When it comes to amps, many people confuse the relationship between watts and volume – the power an amp kicks out does not necessarily dictate how loud you can crank the music up.

Firstly, volume is as tied to speaker sensitivity as it is to the wattage of an amp. Every 3dB of speaker sensitivity that you add means you need half the power to reach the same volume. For example, an 84dB speaker driven by a 100W amp will produce the same volume as an 87dB box powered by a 50W amp, or a 90dB speaker powered by 25W.

Also, an amp will very rarely call on its full power potential. Only hefty dynamics in music test an amp, and then only for split seconds at a time. So beware: specs may impress on paper, but are not always what you'll hear.

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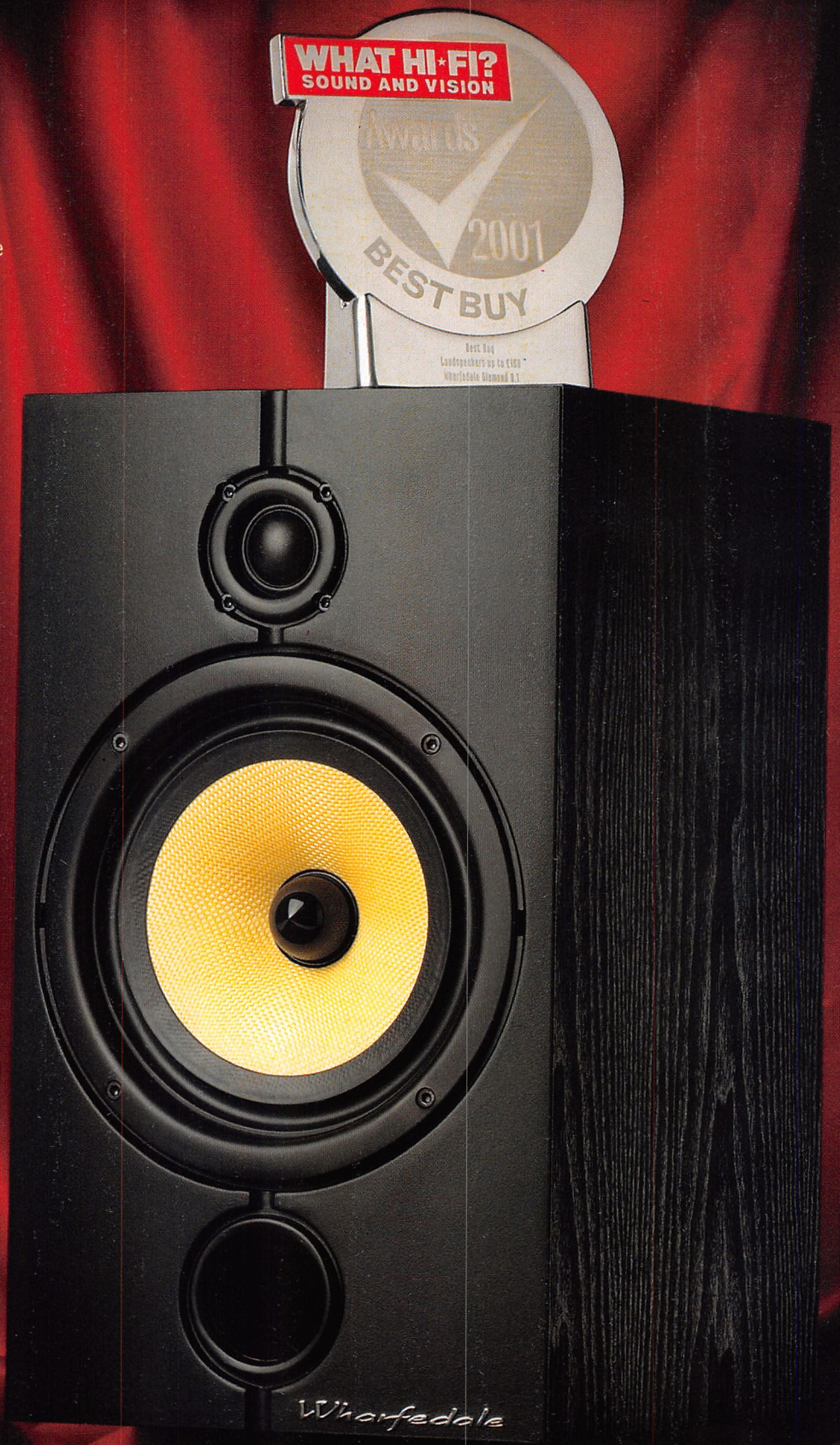

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Roksan Caspian MkII £800
★★★★★

After a shelf life of more than four years, during which it has seen numerous tweaks, the Roksan Caspian has finally been officially upgraded and receives a MkII badge. The Caspian was a great amplifier, and the MkII is simply stunning.

Build quality is up to the high standard of its predecessor, with the stylish silver finish putting the final touches to the solid casing. If there's a drawback, it's the lack of features on offer: the lack of tone controls or a headphone socket give the cheaper Arcam an edge. But what of the sound?

Spin a disc and the Roksan's qualities are immediately apparent. It has fine grip on the bass, holding onto the rhythm of the music to ensure excitement. At The Drive In's *Rolodex Propaganda* hammers home, the taut basslines thumping with control and definition. Bags of punch make the Caspian a great amp for dance and rock fans.

However, this is not just a hard-nosed rockers' amp – there's also a lot to be said for the Roksan's refinement. Acoustic instruments are handled superbly, the Caspian giving orchestras realistic space while bringing guitars up close and personal. And its attention to subtlety is another weapon in the arsenal. Pin-drop detail is on offer, with the Caspian able to pick out the slightest nuance and make sure that no instrument loses out.

Even brighter recordings are handled well by the Caspian. High frequencies are delivered with smoothness and refinement, a trait which is especially useful when listening to The Strokes' *Hard to Explain*.

At £800 the Caspian remains true to the spirit of an audiophile amplifier, showing confidence with a variety of music and a dextrous approach across the entire frequency range. It's well worth a listen.

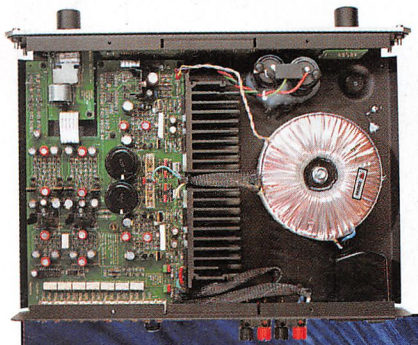
Conclusion

The competition is fierce in this heavyweight collection of British amps, each of which has much to commend it. That said, two manage to edge in front of the rest of the field. The Caspian MkII is focused and convincing, making a fine choice.

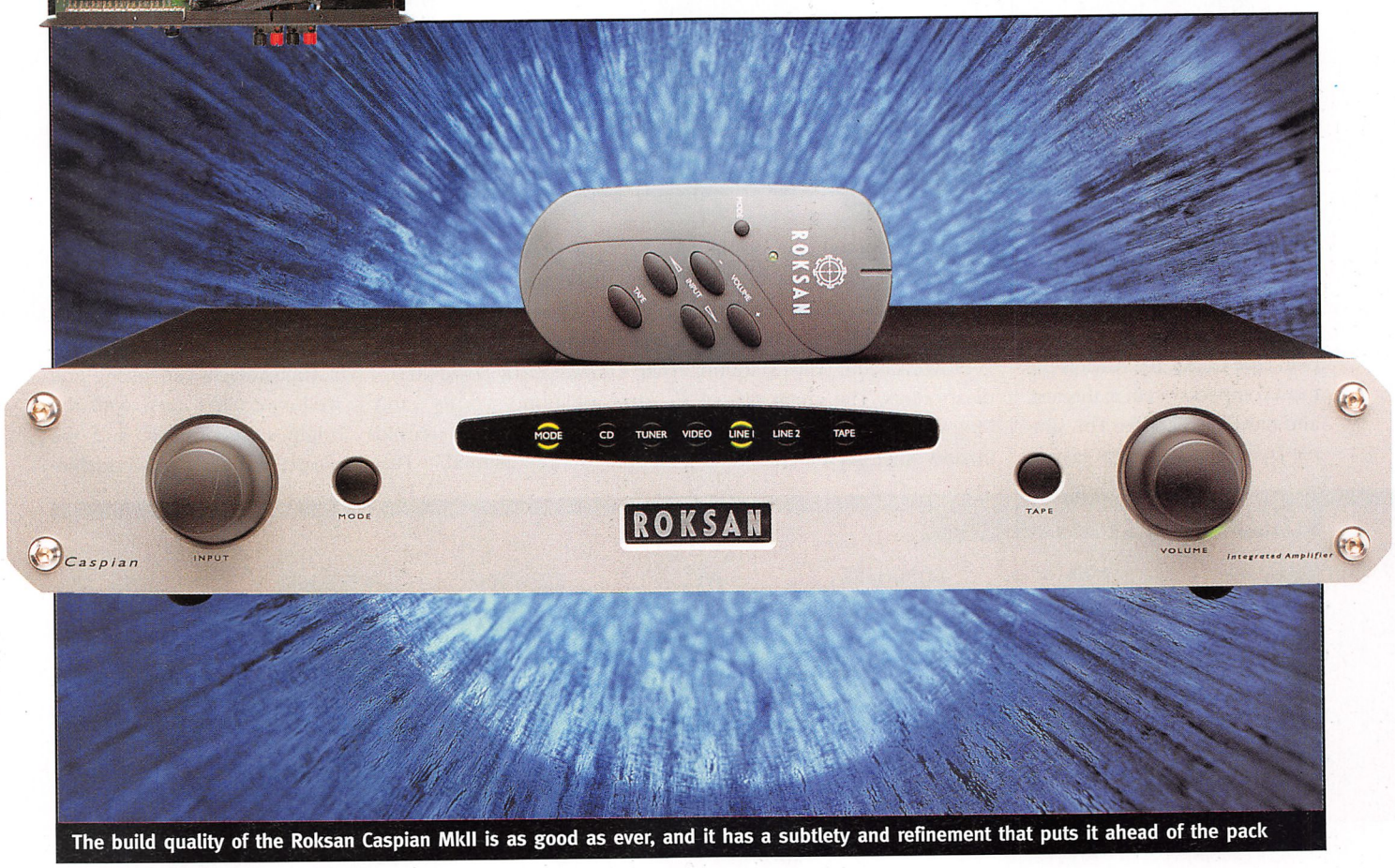
But it is the Arcam A85 that holds on to its title at this price point. It's lavishly equipped and – thanks to that modular design – expandable as well. Add its unrivalled transparency and sensible price into the equation, and it's a worthy winner.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION says

	sound	build	facilities	verdict
Arcam	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Cyrus	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
MF	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
Naim	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆
Roksan	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★★



Years of tweaks have finally seen the Roksan Caspian earn its MkII badge



The build quality of the Roksan Caspian MkII is as good as ever, and it has a subtlety and refinement that puts it ahead of the pack

Miniature heroes

Mini systems are packed to the gills with features, and at around £200 they're good value, but how good do they sound? We test six of the best

Aiwa NSX-R50 £180

★★★☆☆

Although it's armed with a three-disc changer, RDS tuner and twin tape decks, the Aiwa is the most compact system in this test, and has bags of style. The simple layout makes it very easy to use, and although the display graphics are somewhat akin to an '80s arcade game, everything looks smart and is practical.

However, the Aiwa's sound disappoints. The guitar riffs of Mogwai's *Secret Pint* are closed in, and other instruments suffer a lack of prominence. Detail seems to be missing, resulting in a cluttered bass sound. This is all too obvious on heavier tracks like *Counterfeit* by Lowgold.

In addition, vocals and acoustic instruments could sound more natural. This becomes obvious on Ed Harcourt's *Apple of My Eye*, with the piano suffering at the hands of the Aiwa.

High treble is convincing and well-controlled even with the brightest recordings, and the punch is also commendable.

WHAT'S IT GOT?

Make/model	AIWA	GOODMANS	JVC	KENWOOD	PANASONIC	PHILIPS
Number of CDs	3	3	3	3	5	3
Cassette decks	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tuner bands	FM/MW/LW	FM/MW	FM/MW/LW	FM/AM	FM/AM	FM/MW/LW
RDS tuner presets	32	30	30	40	12	40
Input/output	Line/no	Line/no	Line/optical	Line/no	Line/no	Line/line
Unit size (cm)	26 x 32.4 x 36	27.5 x 37.7 x 31.8	27 x 31.7 x 39.5	27 x 33 x 39	25 x 33.2 x 31.6	26.5 x 31 x 39
Speaker size (cm)	25 x 32.4 x 26.8	22.5 x 26.1 x 31.7	28.6 x 31.7 x 36.5	22.6 x 33 x 22.5	23 x 33.2 x 29.1	24 x 35 x 29

The Aiwa delivers music with good power, and this certainly makes for an exciting listen.

The smoothness in the treble aids the solid tuner performance, which is as good with classical as it is with rock. Cassette playback is passable, but recording is not up to the standard set by other systems here.

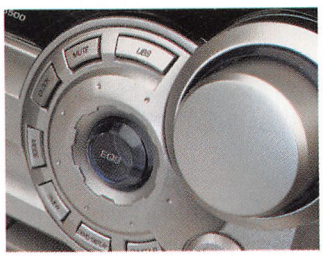
All-in-all this Aiwa is a reasonable effort, but it's simply outclassed in this company.

Goodmans 6500

£180 ★★★☆☆

Although the Goodmans 6500 is one of the cheapest in this test, you wouldn't think it from the build quality. The 6500 is a sturdy piece of kit and stylish to boot, the smooth silver finish giving it an air of sophistication. It has features aplenty too, with a three-disc changer, twin cassettes and an RDS tuner able to store up to 30 of your favourite stations. The system can also double as an alarm clock: what more could you ask?

Well, we wouldn't mind a solid sound performance for one thing, and sonically the 6500 has problems. The bass doesn't time very well, thanks to excessive boom, and this detracts from listening pleasure. Power truly is nothing without control, and the Goodmans 6500 has the weight but lacks any sense of definition:



The Goodmans is sturdily stylish but lacks control and integration

tracks like *Plug-in Baby* by Muse are badly let down in this particular respect.

Dynamics also suffer from the 6500's bass performance. Integration could certainly be improved, too. The boomy bass stands out from the other frequencies, and as a result the treble and midband are not happy bedfellows with the unruly low-end.

It's not all bad news. The 6500 offers a sweet midrange and also puts in a good performance at the top end. Guitars and vocals are presented with strength, and there is plenty of detail available.

Tuner and tape performance are both similar to that of the CD player: the bass grates and both sources offer up a rather flat sound, although the tuner does manage to save some face when tackling brighter stations.

Even for those on a tight budget, the Goodmans is rather average for this kind of money, and it would be more

worthwhile saving another £50 – or even shopping around – to go for the slightly more expensive Kenwood.

JVC MX-G51R £230

★★★☆☆

The MX-G51R lights up like a Christmas tree, but those who think such blandishments are all window-dressing will be disappointed: the build quality is excellent, and the MX-G51R is incredibly easy to use.

Spinning discs on the JVC gives mixed results. The most striking quality is the strength in the midrange: Adam Duritz's vocals on *Colorblind* sound rich and natural, while the guitars on *Jo Jo's Jacket* by Stephen Malkmus are equally impressive.

Behind the flashing lights, the JVC MX-G51R has superb build quality

From chunky riff to gentle overdub, the JVC offers a vibrant presentation and remains involving throughout.

The treble is also classy: smooth, refined and well balanced with the rest of the frequency range. The treble nuances of Mogwai's *Secret Pint* are delivered with aplomb, with no trace of a harshness.

Sadly, like so many systems of this kind, the JVC falls down on its lack of openness. Many recordings will sound closed in on this system, and key components of the song, be they vocal lines or instrumental solos, lose prominence as a result.

Excitement is also in short supply. While the excellent midrange goes a long way to keep songs involving, the lack of bass weight means this cannot be sustained for a long time. With not much punch present, the energy of Muse's *Plug-in Baby* is lost, and the wonderfully expressive beats of Ed Harcourt have little impact.

The twin cassette decks are relatively hiss-free, and the RDS tuner copes well, but some of the MX-G51R's competitors can offer better CD performance and a solid sound from the rest of their features. It's for this reason that in a field of such strong competition the JVC remains strictly average.

Kenwood XD-655 £230

★★★★★

The Kenwood is both rather confusing and somewhat lightweight: the functions of the fascia buttons aren't immediately obvious, and build quality isn't as sturdy as you might want. Fortunately, the look of this system goes some way to making up the shortfall: the '655 is handsomely finished in blue and silver, and the speakers seem pretty solid.

However, Kenwood has focused its attention on the most important thing: sound quality. The '655 demonstrates control across the tonal spectrum, the smooth refinement of the treble being obvious when listening to Ed Harcourt's tender *Apple of My Eye*. The '655 can just as easily turn its attention to heavier music, dishing out the choppy riffs of Stephen Malkmus's *Jo Jo's Jacket* with great vivacity and dynamic authority.

It's also a detail fiend, while the bass has plenty of weight, but is also well-defined, which is vital for controlling thumping tracks like Muse's *New Born*.

Although mini systems are not usually renowned for presenting a convincing soundstage, the Kenwood manages to do so, especially with acoustic pieces or open-mic recordings.

The '655 is comprehensively equipped, with a three-disc CD changer, RDS tuner and two tape decks. Although the equaliser range isn't as extensive as that of the Panasonic, there are a number of different settings that'll come in handy for different music types.

Tuner and cassette playback share the attributes of the CD player. The '655 shows plenty of authority across the board, and copes particularly well with highly compressed stations like Radio 1 and Kiss FM, while recordings on cassette offer clarity, refinement and relatively low levels of background hiss.

The '655 is handsomely finished, if not as sturdy as it might be

Although the build quality isn't up to the standard of some competitors, the 655's looks and sound make it a fine choice for anyone in the market for a mini.

Panasonic SC-AK44 £250

★★★★☆

The Panasonic is immediately striking. Build quality is quite exceptional for a mini: the main unit is very solid, while the layout is excellent and all operations are smooth. What's more, the silver finish gives it the look of a much more expensive system, only the flimsy EQ adjuster letting the side down.

The Panasonic has stacks of features. The vast array of sound settings plus a manual adjustment mode should ensure almost anyone will be able to get a presentation to suit their taste. Novel, too, is the use of built-in subwoofers in the speakers, again adjustable. The AK44 also has a five-CD changer, 12-preset RDS tuner and twin tape decks.

Excitement is this system's most immediately apparent attribute. The 'AK44 packs a

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Flimsy EQ aside, the Panasonic is extremely well put together

punch and times well, pounding out the bass of *Jo Jo's Jacket* by Stephen Malkmus with energy aplenty. Guitars and vocals are handled well, the rich midrange delivering Mogwai with style and depth.

Although the high end shows good control, the upper treble can be harsh with particularly bright recordings. Detail, too, can prove to be elusive. This is particularly evident when listening to pop stations, the 'AK44 coping poorly with the levels of compression. The tape deck puts in a competent performance, with admirable playback and reasonably transparent cassette recordings.

The Panasonic AK44 is a strong all-rounder, offering a number of useful features and solid build. However it's the upper treble and lack of detail that holds it back.

Philips FW C780 £260

★★★★☆

The black and silver finish of the Philips FW C780 exudes class, and despite the slightly over-complicated layout this is certainly a good-looking system. However, a ridiculous power-output meter that would be more at home on a car dashboard stands out like a sore thumb and detracts from the Philips' aesthetic qualities.

Functions like the super-silent operation of the three-disc changer show that a great deal of effort has been put into the system's build. Abundant EQ settings give a nice variety of sound, and you can also put a

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR MINI SYSTEM'S SOUND

A bit of tweaking with your mini's sound never goes amiss. Start by positioning the main unit. If an isolation platform isn't feasible, make sure that whatever the mini sits on is sturdy and secure, to minimise vibration and reinforce the sound. Invest in dedicated speaker stands; this too prevents vibration, and will also give more bass extension. Position the speakers correctly: try putting more space between them, and toeing them in. This will enhance the soundstage and add to listening pleasure. Mini system speaker cable isn't brilliant, so make a small investment (try the Ecosse CS 2.3 at £3.75/m) to improve treble refinement and overall integration. And get an external aerial for the tuner.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

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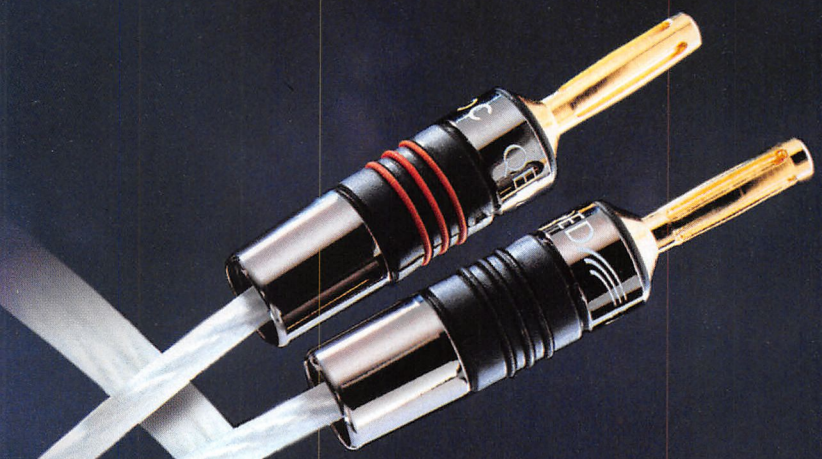

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bit more welly in the bass with the system's Dynamic Amplification Control. Of the three settings, maximum tends to sound a little boomy.

CD playback is respectable. Weighty bass knocks out Muse's *Plug-in Baby* at a furious pace, but as with the Panasonic, there is a shortage of detail resolution, making it a struggle to pick out subtle information.

The 'C780 handles higher frequencies better: Mogwai's atmospheric *Secret Pint* is presented superbly, with the system keeping treble nuances well under control and convincing. The bass and midrange integrate well, and though voices are prominent, with a nice forward vocal on Counting Crows' *Colorblind*, the 'C780 doesn't sound as natural as some of the other systems here. Dynamically the Philips struggles to cope with the movement between loud and quiet sections of music, and

A ridiculous power-output meter spoils the Philips' good looks

for all its efforts cannot match the extensive dynamic range of the Kenwood system.

Both the RDS tuner (which has a whopping 40 presets for you favourite stations) and twin cassette deck hold their own very well, with the tuner avoiding excessive sibilance during speech broadcasts. Recordings made on the tape deck have plenty of transparency and remain faithful to the original.

Overall the Philips performs very competently, looks smart, and despite its flaws is worthy of serious consideration.

Conclusion

The three cheapest models in this test – the Aiwa NSX-R50, the Goodmans 6500 and the JVC MX-G51R – simply have too much holding them back, despite their favourable prices and some pleasing attributes.

If it's functions you're after, then the Panasonic SC-AK44 edges ahead with a five-CD changer (as opposed to the usual three) and an excellent EQ facility. Build quality is excellent, too. The Philips wins in the looks department and is solidly put together. Its tuner and cassette deck perform well, but CD replay is let down by a lack of detail and subtlety.

The greatest performer for the money has to be the Kenwood. It defies the traditions of the mini system with its striking detail and open sound, and still manages to come packed with plenty of features. OK, others here are more robustly built, but the Kenwood looks handsome and the manufacturer has concentrated on the most important aspect: sound quality. It's the one for us.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION says

	sound	build	facilities	verdict
Aiwa	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆
Goodmans	★★★☆☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆
JVC	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Kenwood	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★
Panasonic	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★☆
Philips	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION SUPERTEST: Subwoofers up to £500 (products on test in gold, other rivals in grey)...

Boston Acoustic PV400	£249	Kenwood SW-501	£350	PSB Alpha Sub Zero	£200
Eltax Atomic A-15	£299	Magnat Omega 300	£500	Quadral SUB-300 AKTIV	£400
Heco Slam 12A	£279	MJ Acoustics MJ Pro-50	£400	REL Q50	£400
Jamo E6SUB	£299	Monitor Audio ASW100	£299	REL Q-150E	£500
Jamo E8SUB	£400	Paradigm PS-1000	£350	Yamaha YST-SW800	£500
JPW SW40	£240	Paradigm PDR-10	£250	Yamaha YST-SW320	£350

Supertest No. 308

Subwoofers up to £500

Aces of bass

There's no doubt that a decent sub can be the making of a home cinema set-up. No boom or bang here: think complete dynamics over the full audio spectrum and a proper representation of the director's intentions. Don't be fooled into thinking that big speakers can compensate for the lack of truly low bass: unless you're talking ultra, ultra high-end cabs, no speaker can rival the low-frequency extension of a sub. So, which of these eight shall be the budget bassmeister? Read on...

What our star ratings mean

★★★★★ Award-winning Product of the Year or Best Buy

★★★★☆ Great sound and value for money: well worth a listen

★☆☆☆☆ Say no more

★★★★★ The best-sounding product at its price: a *Supertest* winner

★★★☆☆ Average performance but not outstanding

Products are tested against peers in their price ranges and are awarded stars on a sound-per-pound basis. Older products' star ratings may drop when they're tested against new rivals

★★★★★ One of the best available at the price

★★☆☆☆ Disappointing: we'd expect better sound

Heco Slam 12A

£279

For The bargain price; impressively deep and full sound

Against Lacks punch and power; not truly distinctive

Verdict ★★★☆☆

For the money there's little wrong with this, but it stubbornly refuses to do anything special either

We start with one of the larger subs here. The Slam 12A's major controls are at the rear, along with two largish ports. There are high-level inputs and outputs plus low-level inputs, but no outputs; tweaking and tuning is limited to volume, crossover-point selection and phase (set to either 0° or 180°). Its 12in cone is driven by a 90W amp, and its rubber feet are kinder to wooden floors than spikes.

The Slam has two rear ports but the bass can be flabby

In the impressive group we have here, the Heco fares okay. It digs deep, is impressively full sounding, and with *Halloween* it fills in the low end respectably. However, play something more demanding and cracks begin to appear. It lacks the power and extension for the chase scenes from *Terminator 2*, and the final explosion is too soft to satisfy. It also lacks the agility of the powerful Yamaha or compact REL, but at around half the price there's no real shame in that.

The performance is similarly average with music. Ryan Adams's *New York, New York* is rendered pretty one dimensional, and The Man With No Name's *Each Morning The Sun* is left flabby. The Slam 12A is good for the price, but there are far better subs to follow.

Jamo E8Sub

£400

For A good looking box; competent performance

Against It's by no means the most musical sub; lacks agility

Verdict ★★★☆☆

Good looking and good with films, but the musical performance lets it down compared to the competition

Jamo's E8SUB is too pretty to be hidden. It's not petite, but its smart styling – with a distinctive black section sitting atop the well-finished veneer – is certainly easy on the eye.

Control options at the back include a phase select, which can be set anywhere between 0° and 180° and a knob to adjust the crossover frequency between 40 and 150Hz. Connection options are limited to line level inputs and outputs – a problem if you need high-level speaker connections – while at the bottom is a 25cm drive unit and a single port, and a choice of rubber feet or spikes.

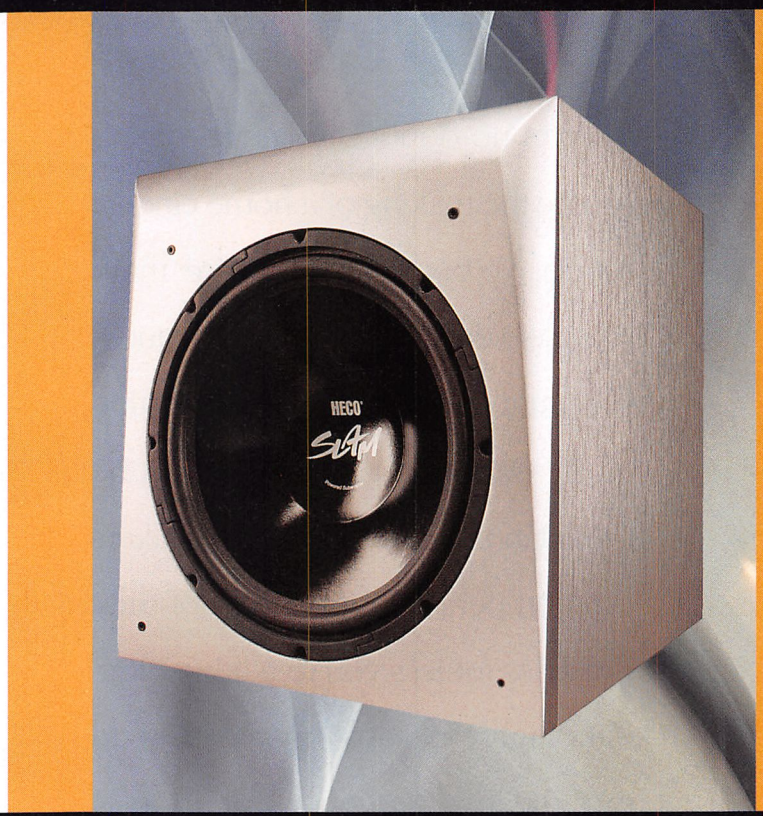
Control options are good, but the E8 lacks speaker terminals

The amp/driver combination does a good job, and low-level effects in the *T2* chase sequences come across in a full, convincing manner. Switch to the demanding DTS score of *Saving Private Ryan*'s closing battle sequence and the Jamo digs deep.

The musical performance is fair, but while it rocks with Ryan Adams's *New York, New York*, it lacks the agility of the most musical subs in this *Supertest*.

The Jamo E8SUB is a very reasonable sub, and if the looks take your fancy it's well worth auditioning.

The silver Slam is one of the largest subwoofers in this *Supertest*



Inputs Line Level/Speaker Level **Outputs** Speaker Level
Driver size 30cm **Amp size** 90W
Cabinet size 38 x 37 x 43cm

The Jamo comes in a lovely beech veneer finish and is beautifully designed

Inputs Line Level **Outputs** Line Level
Driver size 25cm **Amp size** 200W
Cabinet size 35 x 42 x 43cm

Magnat Omega 300

£500

For Powerful, with good upper bass performance

Against Too pricey; lacks depth and dynamics; an ugly brute

Verdict ★★☆☆☆

The Magnat performs poorly. There's no reason to buy this sub when the REL is the same price

If you want a subwoofer that can be hidden in a minimalist room, stop reading now: the Magnat Omega 300 is an ugly brute. The spike-footed box is big and reasonably solid, although there was rattling at loud volumes. There's also the usual selection of connectivity options.

On the plus side, the Omega 300 is a powerful sub. The upper bass performance is particularly worthy of mention, with the general low level hubbub of movie soundtracks being delivered both competently and satisfyingly. So, *Halloween* is rendered in a full and listenable manner, with just enough low end to keep the tension bubbling.

But, sadly, try for something with real depth and the Magnat disappoints. With the explosive sonics of *T2* it really lacks that low-level grunt: trucks scraping walls are fine, but trucks hitting the ground from bridges aren't.

Musically things aren't too bad, and with Ryan Adams the sub is pretty agile. But again, ask it to dig deeper with The Man With No Name and cracks start to appear, with only minor dynamics.

It's a respectable performance, but the lack of real depth will disappoint real action fanatics, especially at this high price point.

The Omega 300 has a standard set of controls

MJ Acoustics MJ Pro-50

£400

For Great dynamics; good power; stylish design; choice of finish

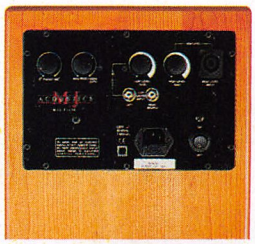
Against No crucial flaws to report

Verdict ★★★★★

A new brand sets new standards. Thus sub is smart enough to be furniture, but good enough to be great hi-fi equipment

Newcomer MJ Acoustics sets the pace with the smallest and cutest sub here. The MJ Pro-50 was reviewed last month, but this model comes with a lovely wood finish. Small though it is, you won't hide this.

It offers a Neutrik Speakon connection for high level input, standard LFE inputs and tweaking controls including gains for both sets of inputs and a frequency roll-off from 40 to 240Hz.



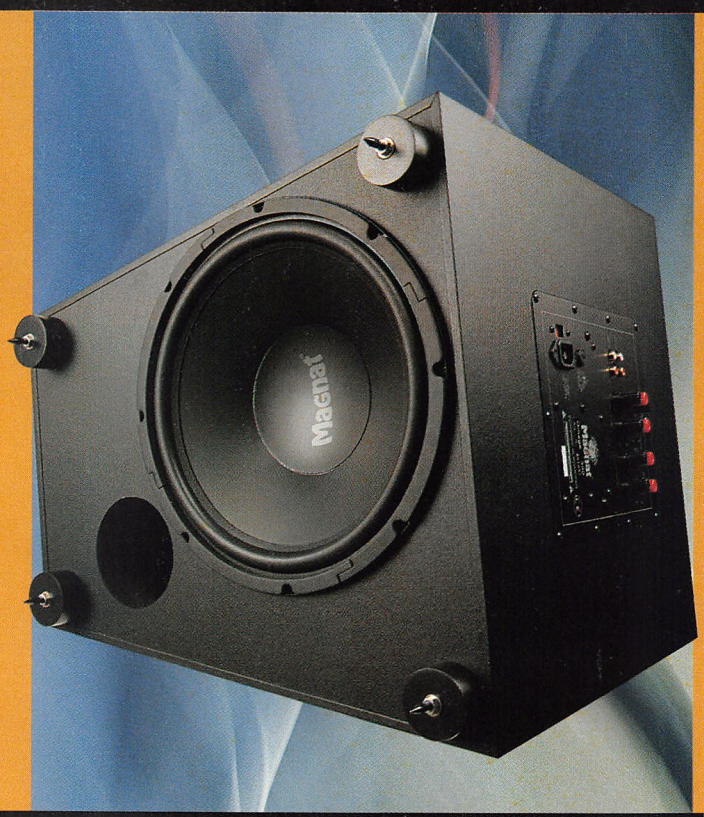
It's connection city on the rear panel of the MJ Pro-50

The Pro-50 majors in precision and dynamics and for its size is stunning. Even when pushed hard with the chase sequence from *T2* it doesn't show any signs of discomfort, while with the demanding DTS soundtrack of *Saving Private Ryan* it shows just how dynamic it is: one moment chugging along in the background before instantly coming to life for a deeply satisfying explosion.

Only the pricier REL can match its agility and precision with Ryan Adams's *Gold,* and give it some techno from Man With No Name and the MJ shows it can thump out deep rhythms as well.

Even with the extra cost of the cabinet over the basic model, this subwoofer is a very fine piece of kit for movies and music.

The Magnat is an absolute beast of a speaker, but size isn't everything



Inputs Line Level/Speaker Level **Outputs** Line Level/Speaker Level
Driver size 30cm **Amp size** 100W
Cabinet size 46 x 52 x 49cm

The MJ Acoustics sub is a thing of great beauty, and it sounds special too

Inputs Line Level/Speaker Level **Outputs** None
Driver size 20cm **Amp size** 50W
Cabinet size 28 x 33 x 28cm

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Monitor Audio ASW100

£299

For Very good with music; agile and dynamic; solid build

Against Lacks authority

Verdict ★★★★☆

Better with music than movies, perhaps marking it out as the ideal product for audiophiles who enjoy the occasional film

Monitor Audio is famed for its metal drive units, but the ASW100 sub uses paper. Build quality is still exemplary, with only the tightly packaged REL and MJ Acoustics beating this twin-ported affair for solidity.

Connection options are good, with line-level inputs and high level inputs and outputs. The variable phase control allows you to adjust the sub to any point between 0° and 180° rather than just one or the other. There's also a switch that lets you add an extra 3dB at 30kHz for greater movie impact.

The twin-ported ASW100 offers good connections

It works. The boost to the *T2* soundtrack works wonders, the chase scenes benefiting from the extra slam this supplies as vehicles career across the screen into walls and each other.

But the ASW100 lacks a touch of authority, though it's clean and agile, two traits that pay dividends with music. Especially good is its subtle performance with the country rock of Ryan Adams's *New York, New York*, which has punch and weight.

As the ASW100 goes for agility rather than power it's more impressive with music than movies. As a compromise product it's very good, but just lags behind the very best in this test.

Quadral SUB-300 AKTIV

£400

For Good weight; solid build

Against Soft with action set pieces; poor dynamics with music

Verdict ★★☆☆☆

While this sub's performance is acceptable for the price, some of the fierce competition in this *Supertest* puts it to shame

The Quadral SUB-300 has a downward-facing 26cm driver and front-facing passive 26cm bass radiator, giving the agility of the sealed box and the bass throw of the ported design. Its silver grey cabinet is solidly built, but it needs to be, with two 'drivers' and a 300W power amp. An optional auto-detect mode makes it spring into life only when it receives the right signal. Initially the SUB-300 is impressive, with good weight and decent bass throw that works well with action movies. But initial impressions can often deceive, and prolonged listening results in disappointment. The SUB-300 has neither the power nor control of the best subs at this price. It's fine when filling in the low levels with the action parts of *T2*, but with the real set-piece stunts such as the car chases its soft sound leaves you wanting more.

The Quadral has quite basic, standard connection options

Musically it's agile and performs acceptably with Ryan Adams. But push it a little more with The Man With No Name and things get messy. The Quadral is a reasonable sub, but its performance is too patchy – with music and movies.

The Monitor Audio is agile and excellent for audiophiles who like the odd film

Inputs Line Level/Speaker Level **Outputs** Speaker Level
Driver size 25cm **Amp size** 120W
Cabinet size 33 x 32 x 32cm

The sturdy silver/grey Quadral is well-finished but doesn't cut the mustard

Inputs Line Level/Speaker Level **Outputs** Line Level/Speaker Level
Driver Size 26cm **Amp Size** 300W
Cabinet size 42 x 31 x 40cm

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REL Q-150E

£500

For Punchy powerful sound with movies; great dynamics with music; solid build quality

Against Nothing

Verdict ★★★★★

A first rate performance. A real Welsh Wizard for movies and music

The Award-winning REL Q-150E is stunning – small enough to be hidden away, powerful enough to make an impact in all but the most high-end home cinema system. Its sealed cabinet is solidly built, with the front 25cm driver powered by a 150W amp. It has line level and high level speaker inputs – the latter on a Neutrik Speakon – and tweaking options include a choice of "depth" or "slam" modes that are great for switching between music and movies, for which we'd suggest the latter option.

Like the MJ, the REL features Neutrik Speakon high-level inputs

For all that, 10 minutes setting up is all it takes to get the Q-150 sounding fantastic with anything. Set it to work with *T2* and there's amazing depth to the bass from such a small closed box. But it's also controlled with the motorcycle/truck chase, with a dynamics performance that snaps on and off when needed. Musically, things are just as fine: be it techno or Ryan Adams, the REL is agile and musical enough to add depth to any small-speaker system.

A fine sub with power and punch to amaze, especially given its size and price.

Yamaha YST-SW800

£500

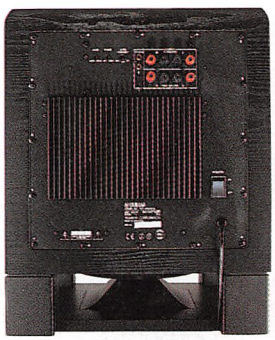
For Powerful; authority; great with big screen action

Against Lacks true agility with musical performance

Verdict ★★★★★

A powerful beast that does wonders with movies. Possibly best in a movie only system

Power isn't everything in a sub, but this 800W Yamaha makes you sit up. It won't be easy to slip it out of sight: sensibly, the volume control is on the front rather than at the back with the connections. The whole box exudes a feeling of well-built solidity, and this carries on into its sonic performance which, after a simple set-up process, is first rate.



The Yamaha's volume control is round the front of the box

The Yamaha has authority. It's a big box and produces a big sound, but it's simple to rein it in to match your system. With the extra power, you never get the impression the Yamaha is struggling or bottoming out, even when digging the depths with the demanding chase sequence from *T2*. It adds depth and weight, although it lacks the agility of the REL.

This is a slight drawback with music, where the REL and the MJ outperform it with Ryan Adams. However, it has impressive dynamics and power with techno tracks.

Fantastic with movies, good with music, this is perhaps slightly less of a compromise product than some of the others. With action movies, it's hard to fault.

The Q-150E wowed us so much, it won the Product of the Year Award 2001

Inputs Line Level/Speaker Level **Outputs** None
Driver size 25cm **Amp size** 150W
Cabinet size 29 x 32 x 29cm

The YST-SW800 is a beast, but it handles the big action movies excellently

Inputs Line Level/Speaker Level **Outputs** Speaker Level
Driver size 25cm **Amp size** 800W
Cabinet size 39 x 48 x 42cm

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Hi-Fi Choice - 6/01

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Stereo Reviews Sound & Vision - 6/00

"Performance lives up to very high expectations, thanks to combination of finesse, clarity and control. Advanced software and full upgradeability protect substantial initial investment."
Audio Video - 4/01

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"Flexibility is built into the AV32R at every level. Unlike others of this type, however, the processor is particularly well adapted to the task. Using stereo source material, it is particularly transparent and clean, easily matching many component two-channel audiophile preamplifiers... The AV32R is an equally excellent multi-channel processor too. Image steering is smooth, and imagery is generally seamless and homogeneous."
Home Entertainment - 9/00

Processing Formats
Mono, Direct, Pro Logic, Dolby Digital, DTS, TMS 7, DTS-ES Matrix, THX, THX Surround EX (Dolby EX)

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	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Clifton	0117 974 3727
Bucks:	Audio T Ltd, High Wycombe	01494 558585
	Martin Kleiser Ltd, Beaconsfield	01494 681300
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	The Audio File, Cambridge	01223 368305
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	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Plymouth	01752 226011
Dorset:	Suttons Hi-Fi, Bournemouth	01202 555512
Essex:	Audio T Ltd, Brentwood	01277 264730
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	Rayleigh Hi-Fi, Lakeside	01708 680551
	Rayleigh Hi-Fi, Rayleigh	01268 779762
	Rayleigh Hi-Fi, Southend	01702 435255
	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Witham	01376 501733
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	Music Matters Ltd, Sutton Coldfield	0121 354 2311
	Music Matters Ltd, Solihull	0121 742 0254
	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Birmingham	0121 212 2977
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Norfolk:	Martins HiFi, Norwich	01603 627010
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Oxford:	Audio T Ltd, Headington	01865 765961
	Oxford Audio Consultants, Oxford	01865 790879
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	Loud and Clear, Glasgow	0141 221 0221
	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Edinburgh	0131 229 7267
	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Glasgow	0141 332 9655
	Stereo Stereo Ltd, Glasgow	0141 248 4079
Shropshire:	Shropshire Hi-Fi, Shrewsbury	01743 232065
Somerset:	Radfords, Bath	01225 446245
Suffolk:	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Ipswich	01473 286977
Surrey:	Audio T Ltd, Camberley	01276 685597
	PJ Hi-Fi, Guildford	01483 504801
	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Epsom	01372 745883
	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Kingston	0208 547 0717
	Unilet Sound & Vision, New Malden	0208 942 9567
Sussex:	Audio Designs, East Grinstead	01342 314569
	Capital Sound & Vision, Crawley	01293 459352
	The Powerplant (Hi-Fi) Ltd, Brighton	01273 775978
Teeside:	Gilson Audio, Middlesborough	01642 248793
Wales:	Audio Excellence Ltd, Cardiff	0292 022 8565
	Audio Excellence Ltd, Swansea	01792 474608
Wilts:	Audio T Ltd, Swindon	01793 538222
Worcs:	Worcester HiFi, Worcester	01905 612929
Yorkshire:	Moorgate Acoustics, Sheffield	0114 275 6048
	Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, Hull	01482 587171
	The HiFi Studios, Doncaster	01302 727274

REL Q-150E ★★★★★

Out of the eight subwoofers in this test, three real gems stand head and shoulders above the rest. Firstly the Yamaha sub is fantastic with films, its impressive 800W meaning it's never short of power – something that pays dividends in the dynamic and punchy approach it has to getting the best from the loudest action movies.

Impressive though it is, it's a one-trick pony compared to the gorgeous (a rare accolade for a sub) MJ Acoustics Pro-50. The smallest sub in the test, from an audio newcomer, blew us away with its mixture of verve and dexterity. Its fairly lowly amp rating was rarely an issue, and it did well with Dolby Digital, DTS and even stereo, where it showed it had an ear for music, while the Yamaha was all muscle.

But there can be only one winner, and that's the REL Q-150E. The 2001 Award-winner beat the challengers in a very competitive test. Powerful and authoritative with movies, subtle and dynamic with music, this sub will fit into most hi-fi and AV systems with ease. Backed up by excellent build quality and a compact solid design able to be hidden out of the way, the REL is a worthy winner.

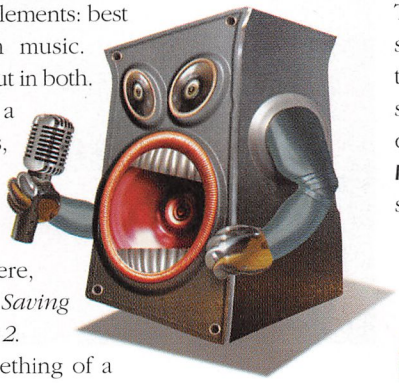
We tested them with	
HI-FI	
CD player	**Arcam CD72**
Loudspeakers	**B&W CDM1NT**
Amplifier	**Arcam A85**
Cables	**Ecosse**
HOME CINEMA	
Processor	**LexiconMC-1**
Power amp	**Bryston 9B**
THX speakers	**M&K S-150**
Interconnects	**Monster Cables**
DVD player	**Sony DVP-S7700**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION says

	build	movies	music	verdict
Heco	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Jamo	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Magnat	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★☆☆☆
MJ Acoustic	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Monitor Audio	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
Quadral	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★☆☆☆
REL	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Yamaha	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★★

BEST OVERALL SOUND

This category comprises two elements: best with movies and best with music. However, the same sub wins out in both.



The powerful **Yamaha** does a fantastic job with soundtracks, especially with the action movie, with a really deep and powerful sound. The stylish **Jamo** also does a good job here, and works impressively with *Saving Private Ryan* and *Terminator 2*.

Musically the Jamo is something of a let-down, though, especially when compared to the agile and versatile **MJ Acoustics** Pro-50, which belies its lowly amplifier rating with a solid and agile performance. The real star of the test, though, is 2001's Award-winning subwoofer, the **REL** Q-150E. This compact box is dynamic and powerful with movies, but rhythmic and agile with music. It's simply stunning and, although £100 dearer than the MJ-Pro, well worth the extra outlay.

BEST BUILD/COMPATIBILITY

This was the hardest section to judge, as the majority of the subwoofers in the test are very well put together and almost all have the important features and functions in place. But even in this impressive group several models stand out. Many offer fantastic build quality, but the solid and reliable **REL** and the newcomer from **MJ Acoustics** stand out on their own – particularly the latter, with its stunning wood finish making it well worth the extra £100 compared to the more basic model.

As for features, the **Magnat** offers a great selection of connection options, including both line level and speaker level outputs, which no other sub here offers. But the model that manages to work both parts of the equation into a useable whole is the Yamaha. Big it may be, but it's solid, well finished, and has an impressive array of features, not least an 800W amplifier.

for a complete list of manufacturers' phone numbers, turn to p292

Try it with these

We build a great system around the REL Q150E subwoofer

Widescreen TV **Toshiba 32ZD09B** £1500 ★★★★☆
DVD player **Toshiba SD-210E** £230 ★★★★★
Front speakers **Mission m71** £130 ★★★★★
Rear speakers **Mission m7DS** £180 ★★★★★
Subwoofer **REL Q150E** £500 ★★★★★
As a system £2540

Okay, we too thought it was a little bit mad building a complete home cinema system around a subwoofer – no matter how good that subwoofer happens to be. So we've done something just that little bit different here. We've put together a cracking surround sound speaker package, including the REL Q150E, to add to a Dolby Digital TV.

Why? Well, an increasing number of people are buying Dolby Digital-capable sets as a simple route to surround sound. But, as we've said in our television reviews many times, it's not as good a solution as having a proper separates system.

Our choice of TV is the Toshiba 32ZD09B, which we reviewed last month, raving about its picture quality. However, we did criticise its surround sound performance, which lacks the power and punch of dedicated separates.

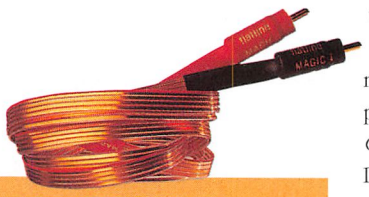
To get the most out of the TV we partnered it with an impressive product from the same company, the Toshiba SD-210E DVD player. Although it's a budget model, it comes equipped with a component video output that can be connected to the TV's component input to provide superior picture quality from DVDs. The result with *The Godfather: Part II* is superb depth and detail.

So the picture is great, but this combination still lacks the thump to really thrill with home cinema. That's where the REL Q150E comes in: it packs a punch well beyond its diminutive stature, and also has a good array of tweaking options, so it can easily be tuned to suit your room and system. Hook it up to the subwoofer preout on the back of the Toshiba TV and you'll have bags of bass.

But Toshiba's TV has another trick up its sleeve: there are also separate outputs for external front and rear speakers (although not a centre speaker). Replacing the internal front left and right speakers with the Mission m71s and the rears with the m7DS bipoles really boosts the sound quality of the set, the Mission surrounds helping to envelop you in the movie.

All set up, the system begins to show its mettle. For starters, colours appear entirely natural, with a rich and lifelike presentation. Watch *The Godfather: Part II* and the Dolby Digital 5.1 sound really comes to life, the Missions creating a much fuller and more precise soundstage than with the standard speakers. But it's the subwoofer that really makes the difference, adding some much needed subtlety and weight to the low end. This overcomes the problem of the TV sounding thin and somewhat weedy, even when the volume is cranked up.

Switch to one of the more demanding action movies that are the bread-and-butter of home cinema, and the REL subwoofer pays even bigger dividends. With *Terminator 2* there's plenty of punch to the bass, making the whole movie far more enjoyable than when played through the set's standard set of speakers. The



GETTING WIRED

We used Nordost Optix RGB component video cable between the TV and DVD player, and Monster Datalink 100 coaxial digital cable and Chord Company Rumour speaker cable.

Adding a subwoofer and better quality speakers to the Toshiba TV brings a significant improvement in its surround sound performance

sound of Arnie's shotgun has a lot more presence and weight behind it, but it's during the various chase sequences that you really notice a difference: the sound is simply far more dynamic and exciting.

The only caveat is that the TV's internal amplifiers are neither as subtle or powerful as those in some budget home cinema receivers on the market. That's why we see this system as the perfect progression for somebody who has purchased a Dolby Digital set. Once you're used to the TV's sound and find yourself wanting more, you can buy the REL sub and Mission speakers to give it that extra oomph home cinema needs.

For the ultimate upgrade you could bypass the TV set's processor and amp by adding a budget AV receiver, such as Marantz's SR-4200. But we wanted to keep costs down, so we'll leave that for another time…

DVD movie magic for under £250

You don't need film-star riches to join the home cinema revolution

Your first step into the world of DVD doesn't have to be an expensive one – there's a host of good players here for under £250. There are even decent ones under £150 – picture and sound quality (especially with CD replay) can't match that of machines at £100 more, but they're a great home cinema entry point.

Shelling out extra tends to mean more features as well as better performance, though even the top-rated £200 plus players here aren't ideal as your main CD player – they're great with movies, but even a budget CD player is likely to sound better.

All of these DVD players will play Region Two (UK) discs, but many can be easily made multiregion – so they can play discs from any of the six regions, including the popular Region One (US) discs – by entering a series of codes via the remote control handset.

Many systems will play US discs

You're unlikely to find any mention of such multiregion capability in your player's manual. This is because manufacturers are meant to build region-specific players according to the terms of the licence needed to let their machines decode the data stored on DVDs. However, one place you can find a list of all handset-hackable players (plus the relevant input codes) is www.dvdreviewer.co.uk. Some players, especially those from bigger manufacturers such as Sony, Toshiba and Pioneer, can't be hacked, but can be made multiregion via a hardware modification. This 'chipping' procedure is sometimes done by retailers before you buy, or can be done post-purchase, typically costing around £50. The process will, however, invalidate the player's warranty. For more chipping info try: www.dvdchips.co.uk; www.techtronics.com.

Other more obvious capabilities to look out for include CD-R replay – crucial if you record your own CDs and are using your DVD player for music as well as movies. On the picture front, the ability for the player's Scart socket to output in RGB (red, green, blue) mode will also offer enhanced video quality.

Aiwa XD-DV370

£230 ★★★☆☆

For Decent CD replay by DVD player standards; feature-packed

Against Picture quality and movie sound fall short of the best

Verdict Well-equipped, but its performance is nothing special

Only a year or so ago, this well-specified DVD player would have been thought a bargain, boasting as it does CD-R, CD-RW and MP3 replay; RGB, component, S-Video and composite video output and even a simple region hack.

However, since top brands such as Pioneer and Toshiba have released budget players offering both features and performance, the Aiwa has to compete on more than specification alone. And that's where the problems start. Visually, edge-definition isn't as precise as we'd like, and colours are a little unnatural.

The story doesn't improve with sound, either, as action scenes lack dynamics, and the level of clarity is nothing special. Only with CDs does the Aiwa mildly impress, offering decent midrange insight. While CD replay isn't superb, it's better than many budget players.

The Aiwa XD-DV370 is not outstanding, and a fiddly remote control handset only strengthens the case against it. Other models out there do things much better for the same (or less) money.

Bush DVD-2009

£170 ★★☆☆☆

For Ready to play discs from all regions straight from the box

Against Ugly; lack of features; disappointing performance

Verdict Looks and feels cheaper than rival players: one to avoid

There are few of these ugly blighters around now, but best to mention them in case you're offered one on the cheap.

OK, first something positive: like its better-looking 2004 sibling, the 2009 plays Region One discs straight from the box, with no hack required.

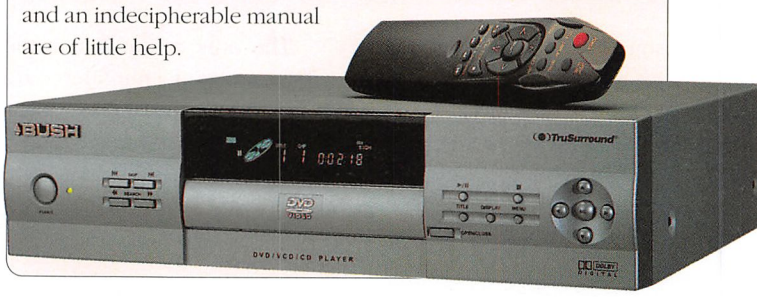
If only setting up the DVD-2002 were so simple – but its obscure on-screen graphics and an indecipherable manual are of little help.

It's not exactly feature-packed either: its Scart doesn't output RGB, it can't play CD-Rs and it's not DTS capable.

The Bush delivers a fair picture, though there's a slight sheen over the image. Whites are a shade muted, and colours don't zing off the screen as you'd hope.

Movie sound is effective, with decent bass extension, but switching to CD is less satisfactory. Details and rhythm are swallowed, drums lack attack, and the overall balance is just plain dull.

This Bush feels more like a bargain-basement design than its rivals. Your money would be better spent elsewhere.



Budget DVD players

Bush DVD-2004

£200 ★★★☆☆

For Multiregion ready; feature-packed; built-in surround decoder

Against Picture is only average; lacks drive and energy with music

Verdict A decent-enough player, but can't match big-name brands

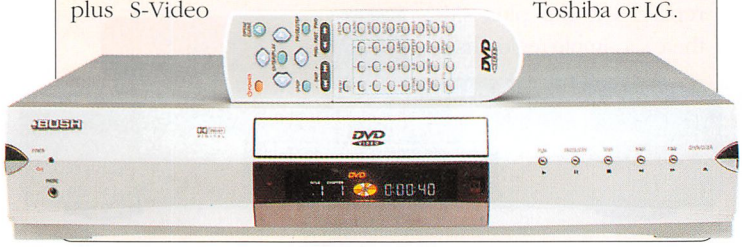
Bit of an oddity this one: in an attempt to make the 2004 more compelling, Bush has packed it full of features, including – bizarrely – two games (Tetris and Othello). More usefully, it's multiregion ready straight from the box, and it has the ability to output a pseudo-PAL signal, so that you can watch US discs even if your TV is UK only.

Other features include an RGB Scart – plus S-Video and composite alternatives – internal surround decoder and CD-R/CD-RW and MP3 replay.

All of this is packed into a silver case that, while looking good, isn't the best built we've seen. The 2004's performance can't match the top players, either: colours can be a little over-blown and the picture suffers from digital "noise" – obvious blocks of picture data.

Sound quality's rather better: movie sound is good but not great, while CD replay is acceptable, though bland.

The Bush 2004 is packed with gizmos, but its performance is no better than average. It's worth paying that little bit more for something special like the Toshiba or LG.



Cyber Home AD-M512

£120 ★★★☆☆

For Fair pictures and DVD sound; also plays CD-R/MP3 discs; cheap!

Against Nasty with CDs; costs £10 extra for multiregion upgrade

Verdict OK but nothing special: the Minato's a better ultra-cheapie

This is a Richer Sounds exclusive, sold in Region-Two-only format but with an optional £10 disc-based multi-region upgrade also available.

For an ultra-cheap player, the Cyber Home has got plenty of features, including an internal Dolby Digital/DTS decoder, an RGB-equipped Scart, and the ability to play Video CDs, CD-R/RW and MP3 discs as well as DVDs and CDs.

Sadly, the performance isn't so impressive. Picture-wise, colours tend to be over-cranked, with a lack of resolution in dark areas that can make movies murky.

There's reasonable clarity in the sound, and the bass is OK, but again it's nothing special.

When it comes to playing music from CD, the best advice is "don't". This is a thin, tinny and strident sounding player, with no convincing bass or treble to speak of, and will be outgunned by just about every budget CD player around.

The Cyber Home is a cheap and cheerful entry into DVD, but even at its super-low price it's bettered by the Minato.

Grundig GDV 130

£250 ★★★☆☆

For Compact; reasonable movie sound and vision; hackable

Against Pretty rough with stereo music; limited connectivity

Verdict An OK machine, but you can get much better for the money

Compact and finished in classy silver, the GDV 130 has a big, easily read display. The rear panel is simple, with an RGB-capable Scart, S-Video and composite video feeds, plus electrical digital and stereo analogue outputs.

For fans of overseas DVDs, there's a simple multiregion hack and the ability to select PAL output from NTSC discs if your TV can't handle both.

Picture performance is decidedly average: contrast levels are so-so; colours seem a little washed-out and blacks could be more solid and detailed. However, movie sound is better – not good enough to worry the best here, but respectable enough.

In stereo, sadly, it's nothing special. It lacks dynamics and definition, giving a thin, somewhat compressed rendition of a range of musical genres. There's little bass, vocals sound sibilant and some instruments are steely and unpleasant. Even a sub-£100 CD player could perform better than this.

So that's the Grundig GDV130: competent enough, but nothing to shout about.

Grundig Xenaro GDP5102

£230 ★★★☆☆

For Good picture; competent movie sound; stylish; hackable

Against Awkward to use; lacks socketry; not good with CDs

Verdict A slimline looker that's better with movies than music

The first thing you notice about Grundig's Xenaro GDP5102 is its compact design: it's a fine choice if space is tight in your TV cabinet. The fascia is minimalist, with tiny buttons, and the spec's sparse, too: no composite video socket, no optical digital output and no internal surround decoding. On the upside, it's hackable, outputs RGB, and plays CD-R, CD-RW and MP3 discs.

Set-up is awkward: the remote's buttons are largely unlabelled, so you either have to make educated guesses or keep referring to the manual. The on-screen menus are also fussy, as is the process needed to enable the S-Video option.

Still, the Grundig performs well enough: pictures are crisp and detailed, with good colours, and movie sound is energetic. But switch to CD replay and that sound lacks bass and drive.

Overall, the Grundig is a perfectly competent player: it looks good, if minimalist, and can handle anything other than CD replay well. But you can buy a better player for the money.

Budget DVD players

Hitachi DVP-305

£217 ★★★★☆

For Looks good; performs well with movies; remote hackable

Against No CD-R replay; not so hot with stereo music playback

Verdict Good-looking and above-average: will meet most needs

Look closely at the Hitachi DVP-P305, then turn to p97 and examine the Samsung DVD-511. You can't mistake the similarities, for these two are siblings under the skin.

The DVP-305 has a RGB video output via its Scart, plus alternative S-Video and composite sockets. It also offers analogue audio sockets so it can hook up to your hi-fi, and two digital outputs (one optical) to connect it to a home cinema amp/receiver.

The Hitachi's even easy to make multiregion via a simple remote hack. No CD-R support, though, which is a shame.

In action, colours are vivid and details sharp, with movie sound having decent bass and dynamics. CD replay is fair, if not great: midrange presence is good, and there's enough energy, but the bass is weak.

Hitachi's DV-P305 looks good and works well enough to satisfy most needs. But, unless you really prefer its styling, you'd save money buying the technically identical Samsung DVD-511.

Hitachi DVP-315

£200 ★★★★☆

For Good picture; attractive styling; remote hackable; price

Against No CD-R replay; not especially musical with CDs

Verdict A solid purchase, but more movie-oriented than all-rounder

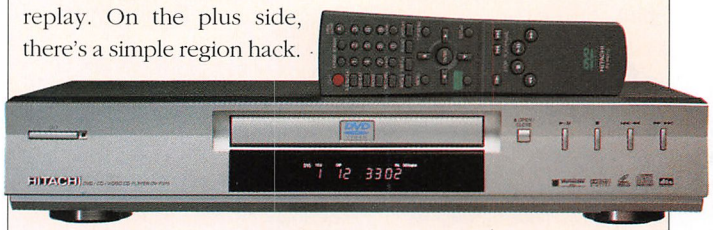
Hitachi's DV-P315 doesn't break any ground technically, but it's sleek, shiny and fairly sultry – and modestly priced.

There are few frills: you get one RGB Scart socket, coupled to lesser-quality S-Video and composite video alternatives, plus the usual range of audio outputs. The DAC is the now-standard 24-bit/96kHz type, but, like the 305, it's a single-lens design, so no CD-R replay. On the plus side, there's a simple region hack.

In action, the Hitachi is a perfectly capable player. Vivid colours come across well, with only a trace of smearing on some fast-paced movie scenes, while edge-definition's respectable for a budget player.

Sound-wise, things are more mixed. With movies, there's good midrange drive and bags of energy, though a slight lack of bass definition, but with music the player sounds quite leaden, lacking agility and poise. It's also short of grunt and can sound soporific.

If you just want a movie player, Hitachi's DV-P315 is worth considering – especially at this price – but it's not up to the task of being your main music spinner.



JVC XV-S42

£250 ★★★☆☆

For Good picture; attractive styling; respectable features

Against Poor music-making ability; some operational quirks

Verdict Solid but unspectacular; a movie machine, not an all-rounder

At just 6.8cm tall, JVC's XV-S42 is a sleek little beauty that'll have no problems sliding into your TV cabinet or equipment rack. There's substance behind the style, too: an RGB-equipped Scart socket, S-Video and compositive alternatives, plus CD-R replay.

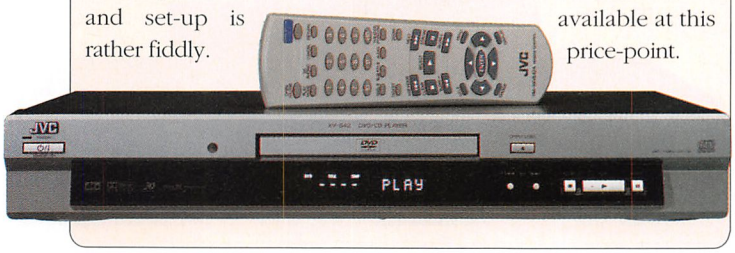
There's no handset hack, though – you'd need to have the player chipped to make it multiregion – and set-up is rather fiddly.

Performance is respectable for a budget player, particularly with the Scart's RGB option. The JVC delivers decent colour, which stays strong even in fast-paced scenes, while edge definition is good, if not great.

It's a shame about the sound, though. Yes, the XV-S42 handles movie audio confidently enough, but there's a lack of overall bass authority with dynamic soundtracks.

CD playback is equally unconvincing: the midrange sounds congested, treble is smooth to the point of sapping detail, and there's little energy.

If all you're after is a slimline movie source, the JVC is a perfectly good choice, but there are better all-rounders available at this price-point.



Lecson DVD-900

£199 ★★★☆☆

For Remains competent in most areas, and is easily hacked

Against Poor CD sound; build quality can't match newer rivals

Verdict Still a solid performer, but upstaged by big-brand newcomers

The Lecson DVD-900 (a Debenhams exclusive) was once the hottest budget DVD player in town, and it remains impressively specified for the price. It features an internal Dolby Digital 5.1 decoder, twin Scart sockets (one RGB, your best option) plus S-Video and composite alternatives and optical and coaxial digital outputs. It even plays CD-Rs and can be easily made multiregion via the remote handset.

Its casing and controls are less classy than on some of the newer big-brand budget players, but its solidly built, and remains a competitive performer. Colours can be a touch too vivid, but images are clearly defined and fast-motion images pose few problems.

Sonically, the 900's built-in decoder is pretty basic — but attach a budget surround amp and it yields greater dynamics and energy to films. CD replay, however, is thin and edgy.

The DVD-900 is still fair value: competent in most areas, affordable and readily hackable. But with newer big-name rivals, the lustre has come off the Lecson.

LG DVD-4950

£250 ★★★★★

For Impressive detail; good colour; strong movie sound; MP3 playback

Against Not a stereo stunner, but no other notable flaws

Verdict Fantastic picture and film sound make this a class leader

Its mirrored fascia may give the LG4950 a stylish air, but it's got plenty of substance, too. Build quality is sturdy and the LG is well specified, with built-in Dolby Digital/DTS output and replay of CD-R, CD-RW and MP3-decoded discs. Around the back are two Scart sockets, of which the output one is RGB capable.

Image quality is first rate: pin-sharp with excellent line definition. Colours are natural, with deep dark blacks that are impressively rich and detailed.

Sonically it's great, too: powerful with action, but subtle and lifelike with dialogue. Effects placement with action films is also highly commendable at the price. The LG's dual laser optical assembly should pay dividends with CD playback, but sadly the LG isn't a stereo stunner. It's passable, but frankly lacks the dynamics to thrill with music.

That's a minor negative in a machine full of positives. And if you're looking for a budget DVD player to play movies on, then this LG could well be it: only the Toshiba 210E is a worthy competitor...

Logix 3000

£150 ★★☆☆☆

For Sensibly priced; almost classy styling job; easily hackable

Against Poor sound and vision; some lip-synch problems

Verdict Offers no significant benefits over better-known players

Another £150 bargain player, with this one being easily hacked to make it multiregion. It can even output pseudo-PAL from NTSC discs, so you can play US discs even if you've an older, PAL-only TV. The only drawback with this region-free flexibility is that we found some lip-synch problems when playing R1 and R3 discs.

The rear panel has optical and coaxial digital outs, the usual trio of video feeds (including RGB Scart) and stereo analogue outs. The display is big, easily read and even dimmable, The onscreen menus are also rather good.

Good news over. Pictures are washed out, with soft and murky colours, and sonically the whole frequency range seems compressed – throw-away lines of dialogue are all too easily missed. Things get even worse with CDs: the bass is thin, treble muffled and ther's an almost total lack of midband presence.

There are plenty of budget players out there, even at this ultra-low price, and that's a fine reason for giving this Logix 3000 a miss.

Matsui DVD-122

£129 ★★★★☆

For Good sound and vision for the price; easily hacked

Against Vision a bit soft; poor with CDs; Scart is not RGB-enabled

Verdict Surprisingly good for the price, but can't match the Minato

This is the second budget player from Dixons' own brand, and it's a vast improvement on its predecessor.

For a start, it has a dead-easy region hack, backed by the ability to output pseudo-PAL from NTSC discs so they can be viewed on older TVs. It can play CD-R discs, too.

There's no built-in Dolby Digital/DTS surround sound decoder, but an electrical digital output and stereo analogue feeds, twin composites and a Scart – though the latter is not RGB equipped, and there's no S-Video option either.

For the cash, performance is more than reasonable, especially with movie sound. Pictures are a shade dark and colours softer than ideal, but in general skin-tones look realistic and there's good detail.

The downside is that it's poor with CDs, sounding thin and unconvincing.

Until the Minato appeared, the Matsui was our favourite sub-£150 player. It's still surprisingly good considering the price, but it's no longer the ultra-budget king.

Minato DVD G1

£130 ★★★★★

For Very impressive performance for the price; easy region hack

Against CD replay is so-so, but few flaws considering the price

Verdict There is no bigger bargain in modern home entertainment

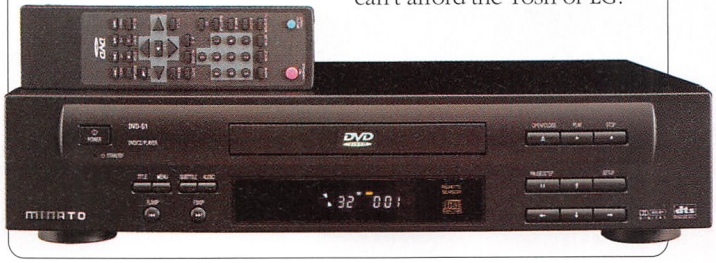
You can pick up this Minato DVD player alongside your groceries in Tescos, and it won't cost you much more than the weekly shop, either.

It has all the basics – an RGB Scart plus S-Video and composite sockets, along with a coaxial digital output – and some extras, too, including CD-R replay, DTS compatibility and a simple region hack.

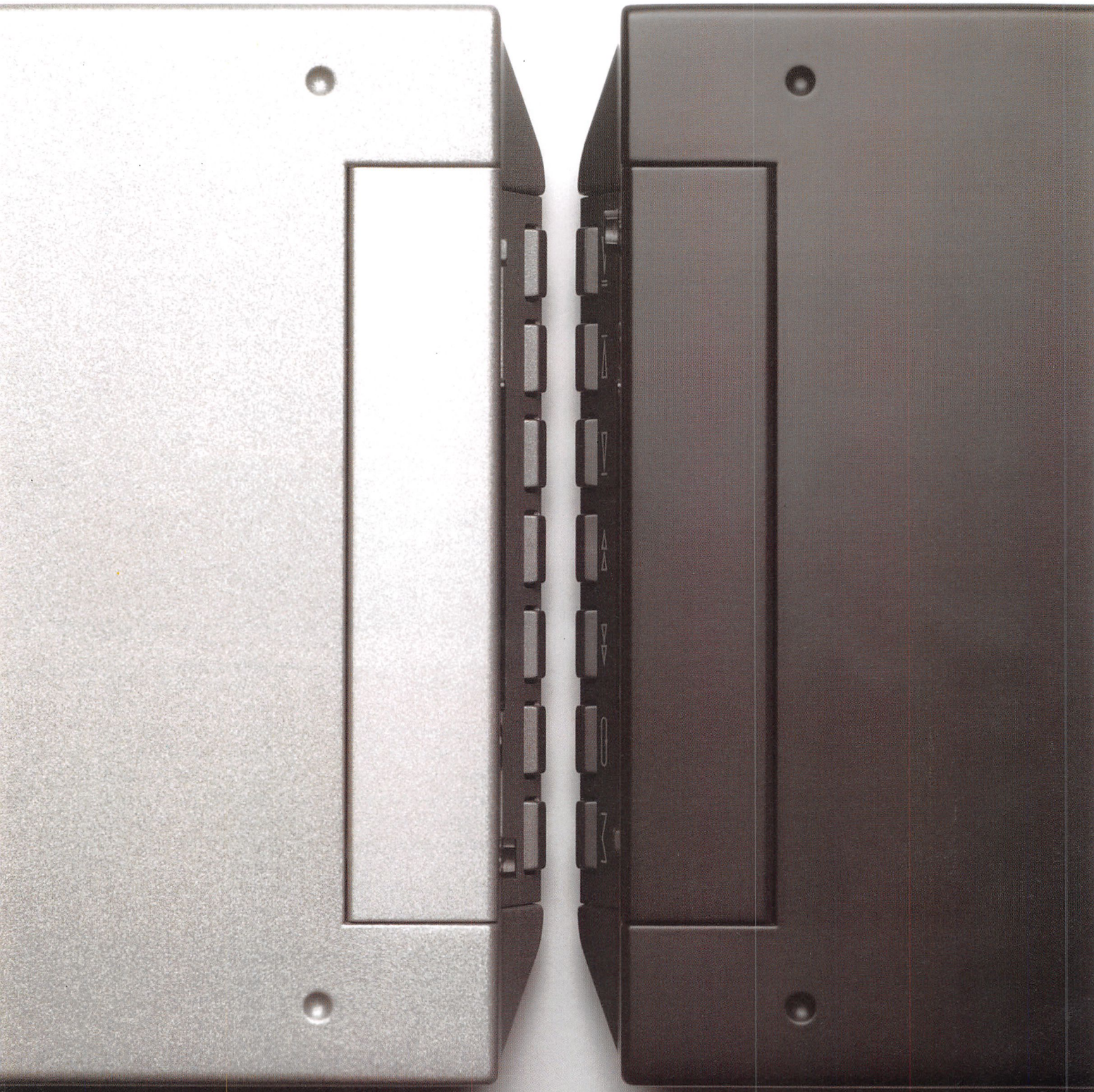
In action, colours can be a bit vivid at times, but edge definition is accurate, which makes for a pleasing picture. The sound is fine too, with a gutsy quality that's ideal for major movie moments.

Only CD replay lets the side down: the Minato is a little edgy, with a slightly bright balance on rock, and a lack of composure on dance. It's listenable, but not comparable with the agility offered by a budget CD player.

But then the Minato plays DVDs as well as CDs, and is cheaper than most budget CD players. In short, there's no bigger bargain in modern home entertainment – ideal if you can't afford the Tosh or LG.



the Cyrus r'evolution



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Panasonic DVD-RV41EBS

£250 ★★★☆☆

For Good picture and sound quality; solid build and finish

Against Competition; digital out optical only; poor CD playback

Verdict A solid buy, if you only play R2 DVDs, and also have a CD player

The DVD-RV41EBS is a sleek silver player with a fuss-free fascia a clear, easy-to-use remote control handset.

Feature-wise, the Panasonic has an onboard Dolby Digital decoder, and both 5.1 channel and stereo analogue outputs, plus composite, S-Video and RGB-equipped Scart video outputs. A minus point is that the digital audio output is optical-only: it's generally acknowledged that good old electrical digital connection gives the best sound.

Another drawback is that there's no easy region hack, meaning a trip to the hardware hackers if you want to play anything other than R2 discs.

The player delivers great pictures, with a lack of digital artefacts and good colours. Movie sound has fine bass weight and punch, but CD playback is pretty woeful.

Panasonic's DVD-RV41EBS is a sensible, perfectly adequate DVD player for the majority of users, but there's little to distinguish it from the horde of rivals.

Pioneer DV-535

£250 ★★★★★

For A great performer, even with CDs; easy to set-up; plays CD-Rs

Against Sparing with its extras; not region-hackable via remote

Verdict Sterling movie sound and vision and even decent with CDs

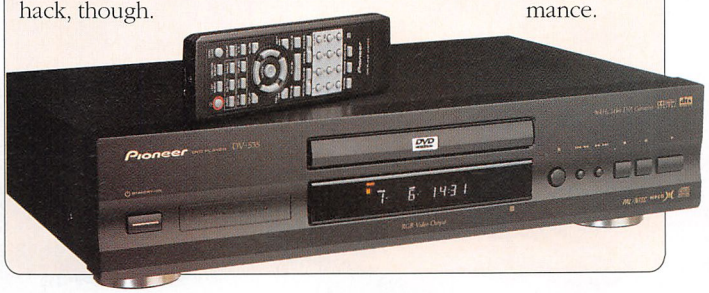
This has all the build quality you'd expect from Pioneer, though it's no great looker. It features a Scart socket with RGB, supported by S-Video and composite video sockets, analogue outputs for connection to a hi-fi, and both sorts of digital output.

The Pioneer's a dual-focus laser design, so it can play CD-R and CD-RW discs. No region hack, though.

Another of the DV-535's plus points is its ease of set-up, based on a 'Navigator' system that prompts you through the core functions. A shame, then, that the remote is awkward to use, with fiddly buttons.

But where the Pioneer really scores is on performance. Picture quality is superb, with natural colours and strong contrast. And it sounds even better: it boasts strong bass and good midrange punch with movie soundtracks while delivering music with guts and verve.

The DV-535 is starting to show its age, but can still hold its own against newer rivals, thanks to its exemplary performance.



Samsung DVD-511

£189 ★★★★☆

For Good vision and movie sound; hacks easily to multiregion

Against Stereo performance is merely average; no CD-R playback

Verdict The Samsung has all the basics right, but is rough with CDs

There are three players here with more than a passing resemblance to each other: this, the Hitachi 305 and the Thomson. All are siblings under the skin and easily made multiregion via the same hack. This looks the most basic, but is also the cheapest.

The Samsung gets most things right, from RGB-capable Scart to its dimmable, fuss-free display. All that's missing is CD-R replay.

Visually the Samsung is fine, though it displays some fizzing with white-on-black movie title sequences on R1 discs set as pseudo-PAL. Otherwise, colours are well-controlled. Everything we could find played fine, from R1 to R3, and sonically the DVD-511 impresses with good weight and power.

With music it has reasonable standards of definition, playing everything from raw pub rock to classical works to acceptable, if not exceptional, levels. You'd do better with a budget CD player, but it's not as poor as some rivals.

The Samsung DVD-511 is a solid DVD player – especially for movies – at a good price, but no class leader.

Scan SC2000

£152 ★★★☆☆

For Affordable; fully-loaded; easy to use; already multiregion hacked

Against Ugly; clunky handset; disappointing sound and picture

Verdict Cheap but feels it; can't compete with best in this sector

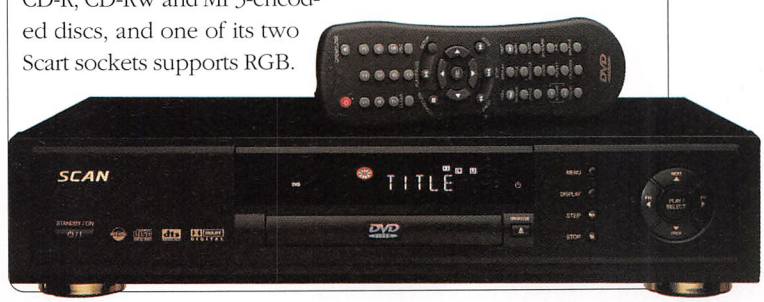
The Korean-built SC2000 is an ugly duckling set against the mainstream swans – no silver-finished slimline slickness here, just plain old basic black.

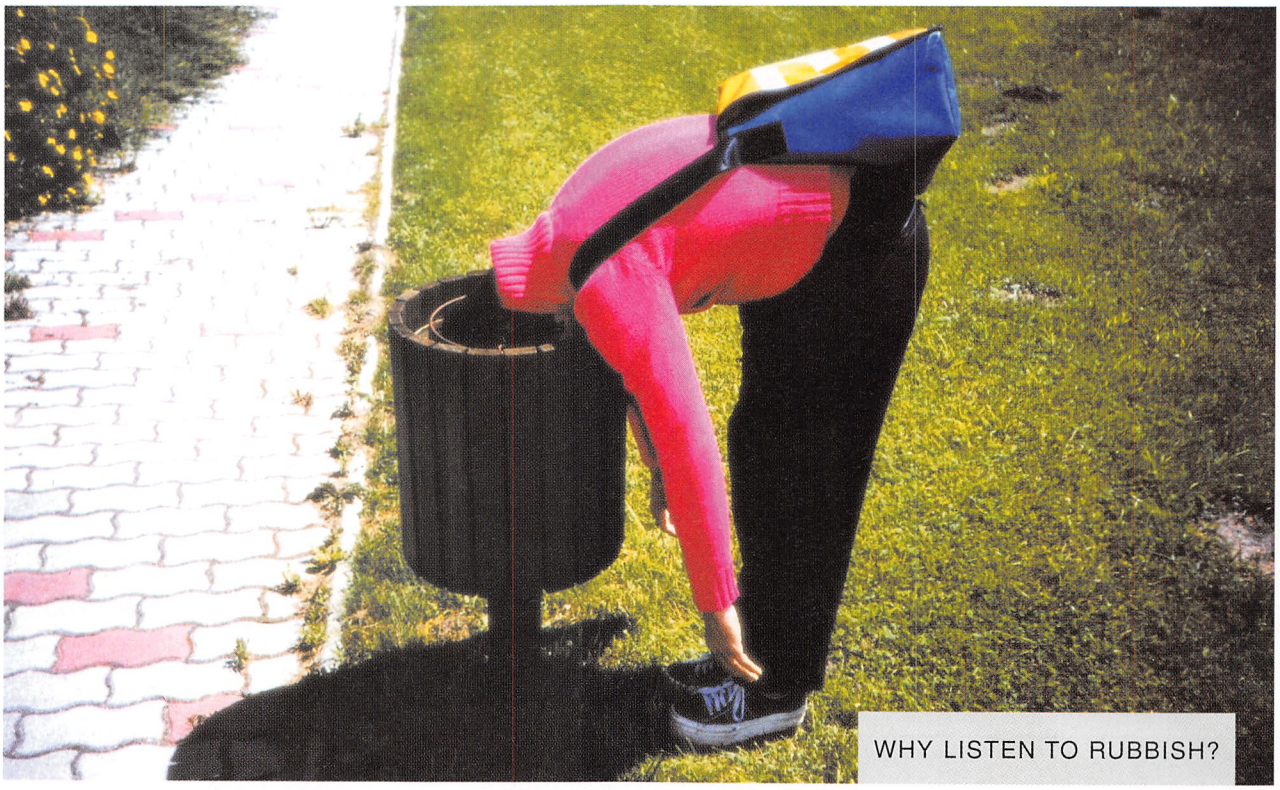
Still, style was never high on this player's agenda. It's of the 'do-it-all' school: no need for hacking – the SC2000 plays Region One discs from the word go. It'll also play CD-R, CD-RW and MP3-encoded discs, and one of its two Scart sockets supports RGB.

Despite its basic looks and frankly clunky handset, the Scan's set-up routine is surprisingly classy, boasting attractive graphics and clear messages.

A shame then that, in performance terms, the Scan is blown away by the latest and best players in this class. Picture detail is notably lacking, with colours suppressed and soft, and the sound is at best average (with movies) and at worst dire (with CDs), lacking midrange agility, focus, grip and timing.

The Scan SC2000 may do the lot, but it doesn't do it very well, and other players will serve you better.





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Sony DVP-NS300

£250 ★★★☆☆

For Good picture; gorgeous looks and build; superb ergonomics

Against Stripped-down spec; average as a music maker

Verdict Good, but not all that it could or should be: rivals better it

Sony has recognised the need to produce a more affordable DVD player to compete with the "supermarket specials", but has cut costs by stripping the spec down to the bare basics. So, there's no optical digital output, no CD-R replay and – as with all Sony players – no simple region-code hack.

On the plus side, this Sony both looks and feels fantastic. Design values are high – the quality of the transport, the feel of the buttons, the clarity of the handset and on-screen displays – and the ergonomics are exceptional. The latter means you can easily set the Sony up in just a couple of minutes.

Pictures look good via the Scart – the RGB image offers a strong mix of accurate colours and detail. Movie sound is respectable, too, with ample bass and drive, but it's much less convincing with CD, lacking snap, rhythm and drive.

There's a great deal to admire about the Sony DVP-NS300: it is beautifully made, looks good and is strong on the day-to-day basics. But its lack of musicality, stingy socketry and limited functionality all count against it.

Thomson DTH-4000

£200 ★★★★☆

For Crisp looks; respectable movie performance; easy hack

Against Nothing special with CDs; fussy remote control handset

Verdict Looks classy, but the finer details are less impressive

The DTH-4000 – a technical sibling of the Hitachi 305 and the Samsung DVD-511 – has much going for it. The styling is very Euro-chic, in gunmetal with silver detailing – a far cry from the glitzy silver or cheap black plastic of many rivals.

The remote's badly designed, however – its backlighting helps, but the use of symbols not legends makes it hard to navigate without the manual.

The other oddity is that the digital output is optical only, which tends to give lower quality than electrical feeds. Beyond that, you get the usual features: pseudo-PAL, an RGB Scart, composite, S-Video and analogue stereo outs.

In use, the Thomson is decent. The picture is a little soft-edged, but more than acceptable, with natural colours and a good tonal range. The sounds lack punch and dynamics, maybe as a result of that optical feed, and when it comes to playing CDs it's decidedly bland.

By the standards of the class, this is a good player, but the strength of its rivals means good is not enough.

Toshiba SD-210E

£230 ★★★★★

For Sensational picture; fine sound; strong facilties; build

Against No simple handset region hack – that's about it!

Verdict Vies with LG's DVD4950 as the best budget DVD player yet

It's easy to see why this won a Best Buy in our recent Awards – it's a budget player built and equipped to midprice quality.

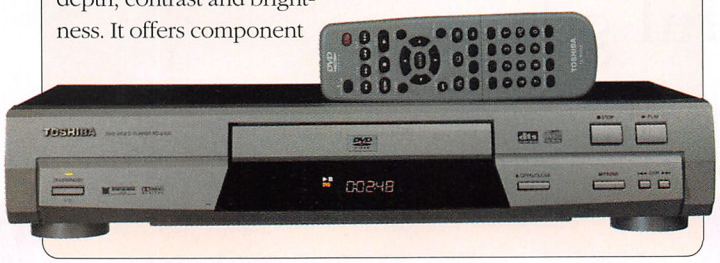
Externally, it's neatly turned out, with a usefully compact (22.5cm deep) casing, but it's under the bonnet where things really get interesting.

For starters, the SD-210E has an Enhanced Picture Mode for fine adjustments of colour depth, contrast and brightness. It offers component video output as well as RGB on the Scart. The former offers a very high performance video transfer, though needs a suitable display – including, handily, Toshiba TVs.

The picture certainly doesn't disappoint: clarity is outstanding, colours look rich and images have a real 3D quality.

Sound-wise, the Tosh is well up to the standards of the class, being articulate and energetic. Even more pleasingly, CD replay is rhythmic and musical, though slightly lacking in bass.

It's hard to find a flaw with the SD-210E: it plays a tune, is easy to use and delivers sensational pictures. It takes the budget DVD crown.



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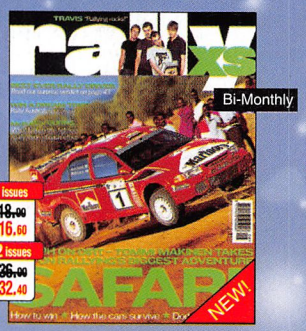

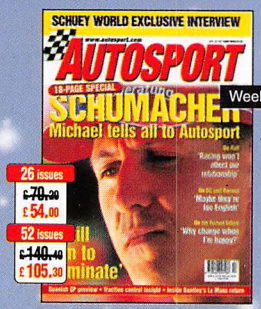

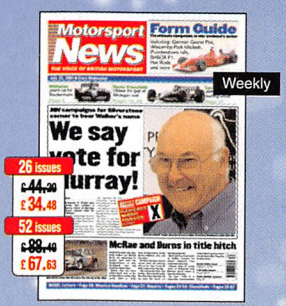

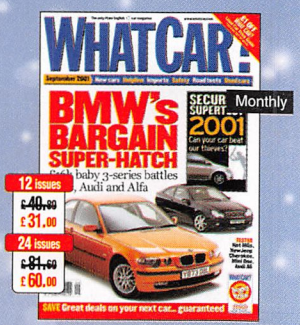

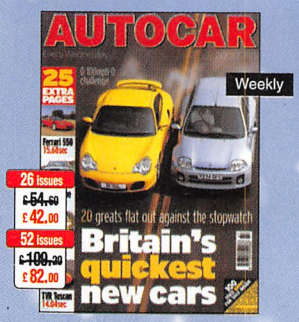

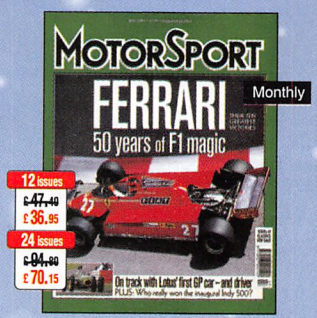

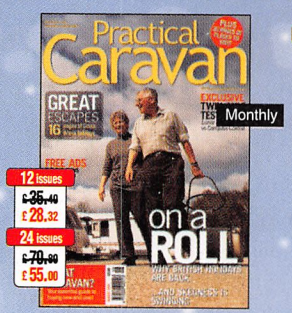

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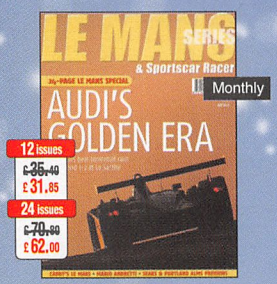

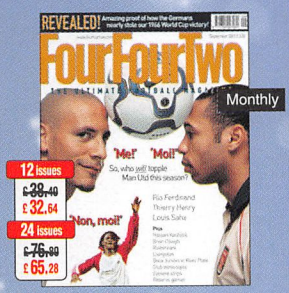

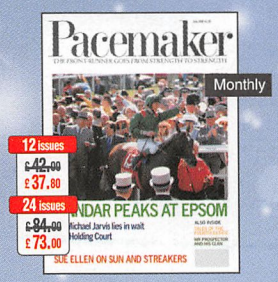

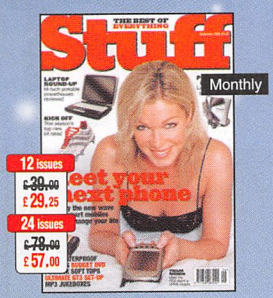

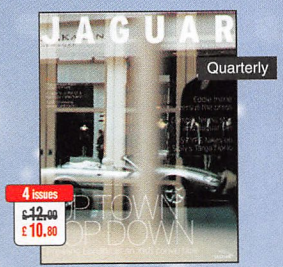

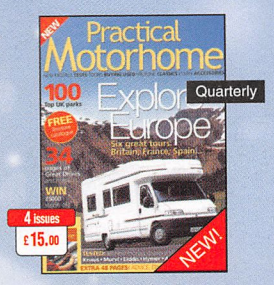

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XWHDP1

Larger than Life

The cinema is all about scale, the thrill of the big screen. So how do you get the same thrills in your living room? You start with a projector...

Projectors were once too big, too complex and too damn pricey to provide big-screen entertainment beyond your local Odeon. But today, thanks largely to the business-presentation market, plus the rise of home cinema, modern projectors cost less money, are less hassle to live with, take up less space, and generate less noise, yet all deliver more big-screen impact than even the largest TV or plasma display. The result? You no longer need be a Beckhamesque billionaire to get big-screen thrills in your very own home.

It's not all a bed of roses, of course. As with most technologies, you get what you pay for, and more outlay delivers notably better results. But if you've ever wondered just how projectors work, how easy they are to live with and use, and which might be the right one for you, we've got the answers you need right here. Welcome to the wonderful world of the bigger picture...

Getting started

LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) technology represents the entry-level for projectors, and can be bought for as little as £1000. Higher-quality units with more features cost around £2000, but are well worth the investment.

TESTED PRODUCTS

LCD

Sanyo PLV-30 £1995
Sony Cineza VPL-HS1 £2000
Toshiba TLP-MT7 £4000

DLP

InFocus LP130 £3872
NEC LT150 £4000
SIM2 HT200 DM £6200
Yamaha DPX-1 £6500

Are there any key features I should look out for?

First and foremost, component video connections, since these make the world of difference to the overall picture quality you can view. The video hierarchy (starting with the best option) runs RGB, component, S-Video, composite, and for TV users, RGB Scart is the best available connection medium between DVD player and television. However, most, if not all, projectors are incompatible with the Scart connectors fitted to most DVD players. This means that if you don't have component inputs on your projector, the next best alternative is the S-Video connection.

After that, look out for progressive scan (only available from component video sockets) and for a 16:9 mode, which allows you to access widescreen anamorphic coding contained on DVDs. If you want to know more, see the panel on progressive scan on p105.

How noisy is it going to be?

It won't be silent, if that's what you mean. Small cooling fans generate the background "whirr" that characterises projectors. The good news is that modern projectors have managed to lower their "noise floors" quite considerably, to between 30dB and 45dB, but that's still not exactly quiet.

You can compensate by mounting the projector on a high bracket from the ceiling (which gets its fan out of earshot, generally at least), and coffee-table "housings" are also available from some specialist dealers. Make sure they don't block airflow to the fan, though, or your projector's lifespan will be artificially shortened.

Also worth remembering – don't turn the projector off (as in unplug it) before the fan's shut down. This will often run for a few minutes after you've put the unit on standby, to complete the cool-down process. Premature switch-off can lead to damage.

What maintenance does it need?

Very little, especially if you can mount it permanently. This will remove the need to realign the projector every time you use it, quite easily the most time-consuming part of the whole affair.

Other than that, a quick – but careful – wipedown of the lens, using a dry duster, is about your lot, at least with LCDs. The only other area of note is that the lamp bulb will need replacing after sustained use (several thousand hours, it should be said) and that this can be costly.

LCD TECHNOLOGY

What does it mean?

Liquid Crystal Display. The latest LCD projectors use advanced TFT (Thin Film Transistor) LCD panels.

How does it work?

A bright lamp fires through the colour LCD display, which has three subpixels with red, green and blue colour filters to make each colour pixel. Pixel combination creates up to 16.8m colours.

What are the benefits?

LCD projectors' pluses are high brightness and strong edge definition. Also, because of the efficiency of the their panels, LCD models can be very compact. They're also the most affordable!

And the downsides?

Most LCD projectors struggle to render accurate blacks, which in turn harms contrast and, in particular, "depth of field". In other words, they lack the 3D, realistic imagery offered by top projectors. You can also, usually, see the LCD panel's lattice blown up on to the screen; it's like looking through a fine wire mesh. You get used to it, and some models hide it better than others.

Sanyo PLV-30

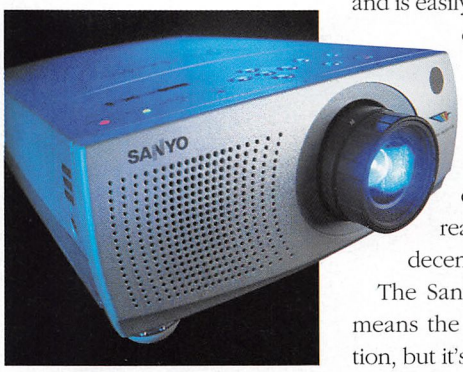
£1995

For Good picture for the price; very compact; good connectivity

Against Nothing significant at the price

Verdict ★★★★☆

A worthy alternative to a big-screen TV, and certainly less obtrusive than a rear-projection set



First reviewed in our Awards issue, the PLV-30's very compact, at just 7.5x19x29cm (hxwxd), and has an extensive suite of input socketry, including component video sockets for direct connection to your DVD player. It can accept progressive scan imagery, including even PAL Progressive (should it happen) and is easily set up using decent on-screen graphics.

Performance is good, given the entry-level price, offering respectable edge definition, reasonable colours and decent black depth.

The Sanyo PLV-30 is by no means the pinnacle of projection, but it's a fine first step.

Sony Cineza VPL-HS1

£2000

For Attractively styled; innovative and well-specified; easy to use

Against Sadly, the picture quality just isn't that good

Verdict ★★★☆☆

Looks good on paper and the casework is smart, but works disappointingly in practice

The super-stylish, compact Sony (15x34x30cm) has an integral pedestal mount for convenient table-top positioning – just one of its home-friendly features. It's also very quiet, has a fine remote plus remarkable on-screen displays. With an optional cable, you can even access progressive scan imagery via the component video output of a DVD player.

All fine and dandy – but the picture isn't: the HS1 lacks black depth, colour vitality and depth of field. It's disappointing compared to the similarly priced Sanyo and the high standards set by Sony's flagship LCD designs.

Toshiba TLP-MT7

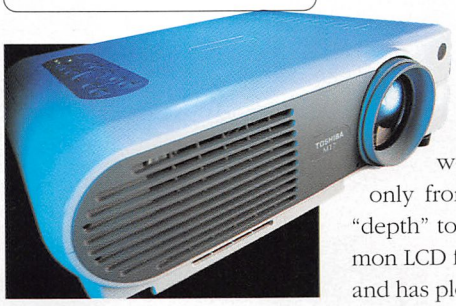
£4000

For Fine picture, with high brightness and good detail

Against At this price, the lack of "depth of field" is disappointing

Verdict ★★★★☆

It's convenient and very flexible, but a tad pricey for what you get



At 10x34x28cm, the Toshiba is larger than the Sanyo, but it's well-equipped, although you'll need an adaptor cable to convert its PC-type port to the RCA sockets used by most DVD players. This done, the Tosh accepts progressive scan imagery (NTSC), and is easy to set up and use.

At the price, it's getting towards the top-end of the LCD market, but it works well enough, suffering only from a relative lack of "depth" to the image – a common LCD flaw. But it's detailed, and has plenty of brightness.

By some unerring instinct, there are some people who always seem one step ahead of everyone else. Meaning they're always the first to arrive at new ideas, such as our new Aquos LCD TV. Instead of the familiar bulky box, Aquos has a space saving and beautifully slim panel that's a mere 6 cm thick. The flicker-free LCD is perfectly flat for a pin-sharp picture of excellent brightness and contrast, with stunning colour and resolution. Aquos LCD TV from Sharp. **AQUOS** The future of television, for certain.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SHARP AQUOS LCD TV, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SHARP.CO.UK OR FREEPHONE 0800 1388882

Choosing and using your big screen

After all that outlay on a projector, don't skimp on the screen just to save a few bob – you'll be doing yourself out of the full performance potential of your new purchase. We answer all your screen queries below and give you yet more set-up tips

Bring a big screen home (not sure about the flowers, though)

What screen should I buy?

A widescreen one, obviously, although these come in varying aspect ratios and sizes. You can buy screens in the standard 16:9 shape (1.78:1 ration) or, if you prefer, in wider ratios, such as 1.85:1 (letterbox).We'd go for a 1.78:1 one – there'll still be black bars with ultra-wide cinemascope (2.35:1) films, but the same is true of widescreen TVs. For most other needs, including off-air TV watching and anamorphically-enhanced DVDs, you'll get a superb-sized image.

What about construction?

Different projection technologies require different types of screen. Screen reflectivity is measured in "gain", the amount of light that is returned to the viewer by the screen surface. A standard matt white screen returns a typical gain of 1.0, and to increase gains, glass-beaded surfaces, and other high-reflection methods, are used to boost the value.

Boosted gain is particularly important in conditions of high ambient light (like rooms that aren't properly dark), but on the other hand, combine a high gain screen with a bright projector and you're in trouble. So, it's vital that you consult your dealer on the appropriate type of screen.

Also check out the projector's brightness, measured in ANSI Lumens (see p102): the larger the screen, the brighter your projector needs to be.

Finally, don't go mad when choosing a screen: 7ft is typically large enough for many rooms. Go larger, and it's likely that your image quality will suffer.

Is a fixed or flexible screen best?

The most affordable type of screen is a fixed design, which attaches permanently to the wall. This can also be the optimum choice for outright performance, since a fixed screen allows for a highly taut, and thus perfectly flat, picture.

Don't go size mad when choosing a screen

However, fixed screens aren't the most attractive option for the average living room, so many users prefer drop-down designs. These can either be manual, which you down yourself, or – more commonly – motorised: a 12V trigger, often provided by projectors, unfurls or retracts the screen as required.

Perforated screens are the final option: like real cinema screens, these have tiny holes that let sound through, which means you can position speakers behind the screen for a more "cinematic" effect. But they're very pricey and tricky to set-up.

Can I buy a screen that will adjust to different shapes?

Some screens offer variable masking – motorised slide-down panels – with adjustable sidebar screens turning a 1.78:1 shape into a standard 4:3 (1.33:1) one. Others adjust both horizontally and vertically, giving full masking for a range of film ratios – but such sophistication costs.

What are common set-up errors?

Primarily, failing to position the projector correctly: it needs to be as perpendicular as possible. Get it in the middle of the screen in terms of horizontal positioning and, if you can, also as close to the middle vertically as possible. Make use of your projector's adjustable feet and lens-angling to allow for the slight upward incline you need to achieve this.

How to make the most of your LCD projector

1 Turn the lights off!

2 Mask any unwanted light that seeps into the room under doors, from curtain gaps, or even from display readouts in other components. If they have a "display off" function, use it

3 Sit the projector on an entirely level surface. If it can be mounted in a fixed position and left alone, so much the better. Ensure it's well-ventilated

4 Buy the best video cables you can afford (see our Buying Guide p263). If you have component capability, use it – it makes the world of difference

5 Make sure that if your projector has access to widescreen anamorphic coding, you use the option – it sharpens up the picture

Ensure you use the best video cables you can afford

HOW PROGRESSIVE SCAN IMPROVES IMAGES

Progressive scan is the next big thing in DVD players. In normal players, pictures are created by scanning horizontal lines, with a complete video picture scanned in two top-to-bottom "passes", so half the lines are refreshed or scanned in each alternate pass. Each pass is known as a "field", so a field contains half the resolution of the entire image. This type of image is known as "interlaced".

Progressive scanning is much simpler. All the horizontal lines in the image are scanned in a single top-to-bottom pass. This gives a better picture, because the line structure is not visible, and also thanks to a more consistent light-level output over the screen.

Look for component video sockets (on both DVD player and projector) and progressive scan compatibility (ditto). Use them – you'll see immediate rewards.

Making that big picture even better

While LCD projectors represent an easy way into big-screen entertainment, they're not the pinnacle of home cinema reproduction. DLP, or Digital Light Projection, can deliver far better results. Here's why, what's out there and how it all works

While LCD projectors can offer the temptations of the big screen for – in some cases – relatively modest money, the overall level of picture performance on offer from even the very best designs is easily bettered by more sophisticated – and yes, admittedly, more pricey – DLP designs (see our *DLP Explained* panel).

DLP bridges the gap between compact LCD units and bulky, complex CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) projectors. And while many videophiles still argue that CRT delivers the best image, DLP at least allows for a more convenient, living-room-friendly alternative.

In fact, as it's evolved, DLP has delivered increasingly better images, so much so that CRT has entered a state of decline in the marketplace; certain brands have ceased CRT manufacture altogether, while others are running down their stocks.

One key advantage of DLP, performance aside, is cost. It's possible to achieve excellent results given only a comparatively modest outlay. Yes, we know that six grand is a lot of money in anyone's language, but we've seen CRT systems costing £100,000 or more, and while they're better, they aren't *that* much better.

Your questions answered

How easy is it to use?

No harder than LCD designs. DLP projectors are compact, come with remote handsets and on-screen graphics, and have pretty much the same set of sockets as any LCD.

How easy is it to set-up?

Follow the same guidelines as for LCD and you'll be fine – the basics of set-up and operation are no more complicated.

How much more will it cost?

Entry-level DLP designs cost from £3000, although for the best results you need to spend a little more. Four grand gets you something very capable indeed, while £5000-£6000 is pretty much optimum. As ever, you can part with more, but the likes of the SIM2 and Yamaha designs here are probably good enough for many users. Remember to budget around £750 for a decent screen, and a little more for some quality cabling.

Can I live with it easily?

Well, of course there are certain rituals you need to get used to, like darkening the room and dropping down a screen (if you get a pull-down one, of course), but in basic terms, you can live with a DLP projector very easily. Generally they're

WHAT DO YOU GET?

Typical DLP features, as illustrated by the SIM2 HT200 DM, tested on p109:

COMPONENT VIDEO INPUTS

As with the LCD Sharp, these are vital for connecting in your DVD player's component outputs, especially if you want to access progressive scan performance from US discs

S-VIDEO INPUT

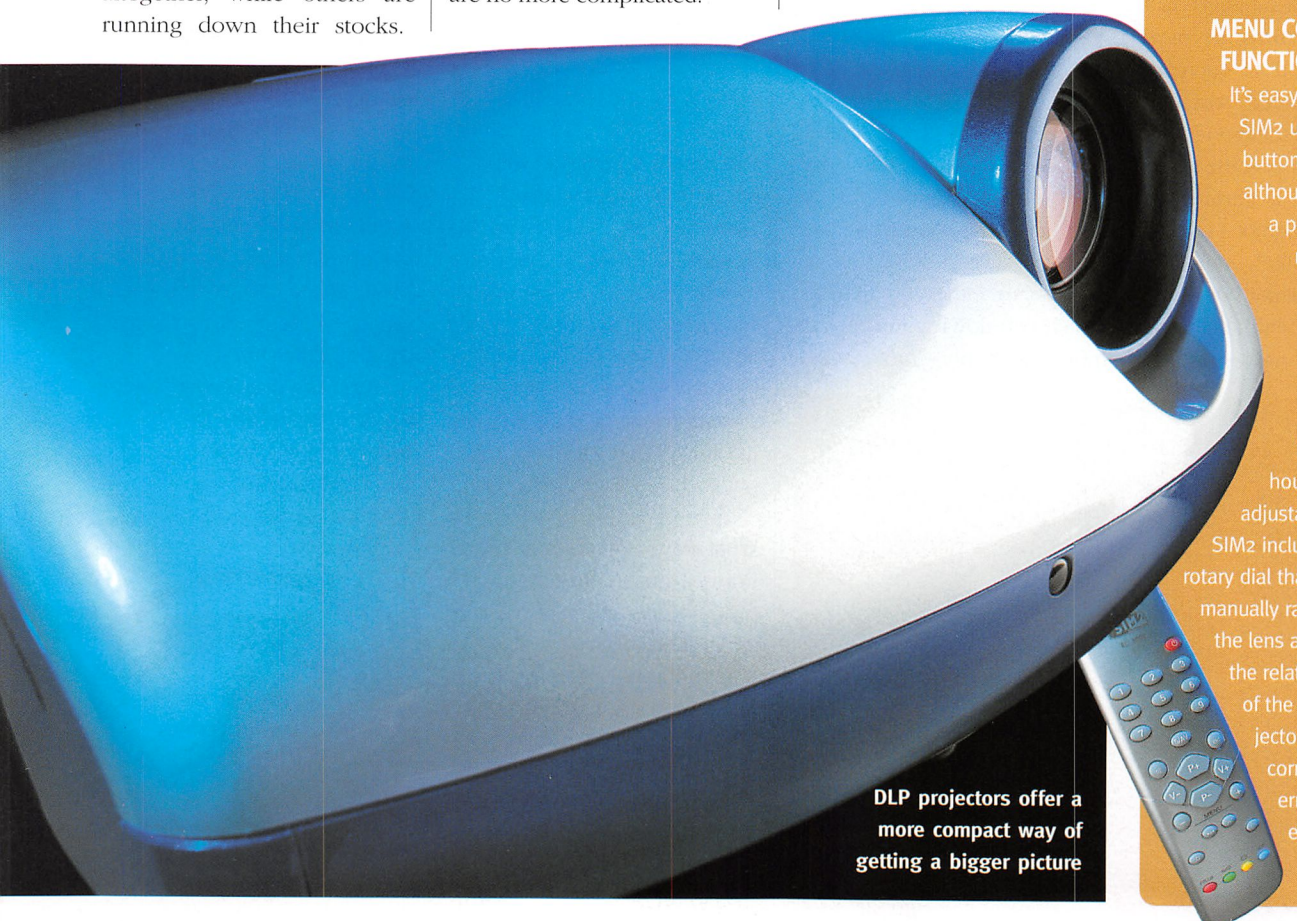
Your next best alternative input to component, although nowhere near as capable

MENU CONTROL FUNCTIONS (REAR)

It's easy to set up the SIM2 using these buttons on the rear, although you also get a perfectly good remote control handset

MANUAL LENS SHIFT

Instead of you having to take hours fiddling with adjustable feet, the SIM2 includes a simple rotary dial that allows you to manually raise or lower the lens angle to suit the relative position of the screen and projector. You can then correct keystone errors electronically



DLP projectors offer a more compact way of getting a bigger picture

fairly quiet, and the performance on offer is high enough to convince you, every time you switch on, that the outlay was worth it. Don't forget, you're not just limited to DVD viewing: you can use your projector to display PlayStation games, TV broadcasts and videos (though with the latter, the image quality tends to suffer, because VHS is such a low-detail format).

Tiny DLP models are more discreet than TVs

How big is it?

Pretty compact – the typical DLP projector is no larger than, say, a DVD player, and many are far smaller. You can easily sit one on a coffee table or go for a fixed mounting/ceiling bracket. Either way, "intrusion" into the room is fairly minimal, especially when compared to a bulky TV.

Do I need anything else to make it work properly?

Screen apart – and surely we've made that point clearly enough by now – it depends on your DVD player. If yours has component video sockets, use them; if these sockets have progressive scan output, then use that, too. In this form, you can get a far crisper, more three-dimensional image than is possible via lower-quality S-Video terminals.

If your player doesn't have progressive scan, there is an alternative to buying one that does – an external "upconverter" box. For example, Silicon Image makes the iScan Pro (shown below), which can accept composite, S-Video and component video, and then feed out progressive scan-enhanced component video into a projector (it can also feed RGB too, but most projectors require component). It costs £750, so of course, whether it's worthwhile depends on your existing DVD player, but it's worth noting that the iScan also allows for PAL progressive video, unlike the systems fitted to most DVD players.

Available from OWL Video Systems
www.owl-video.co.uk
01825 766123

DLP EXPLAINED

What does it mean?
Digital Light Projection. The key to the system's operation is the Digital Micromirror Device (DMD).

How does it work?
The chip-based DMD is made up of thousands of tiny mirrors, each hinged and individually controlled to reflect light from the lamp as needed. If a micromirror is "on", it generates a visible pixel of image data by reflecting light through the projection lens; if "off" then you get black. Colour is generated by a "colour wheel", positioned between the lamp and the DMD. This spins at high speed, delivering 256 shades for each primary colour – giving 16.8m possible colours. The wheel can cause a "rainbow" effect, characterised by subtle colour-fringing to white images (subtitles, for example), but this is an increasingly rare flaw.

What are the benefits?
DLP projectors can deliver dense, rich colours, good detail, and far better "depth of field" than most LCD systems.

What are the downsides?
You can occasionally spot digital artifacts in the image, plus some DLP designs lack black depth. Again, newer designs have tackled these problems to improve to CRT-type levels.

InFocus LP130

£3872

For Extremely compact; easy to use; delivers respectable images

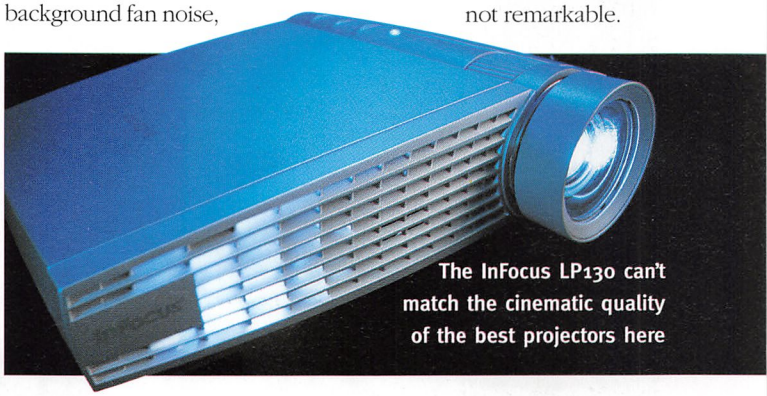
Against Images suffer from some drawbacks, notably lack of depth

Verdict ★★★☆☆

The LP130 is appealing, but not as capable as you might expect from a DLP system

Ultra-compact, at just 5cm high, 22cm wide and 17cm deep, the InFocus is primarily a business-presentation tool, but it has home cinema applications too. It's easy to use, has low levels of background fan noise, and there's an "enhanced for widescreen" mode to crack the anamorphic coding on DVDs. The notable downside is that it has no provision for component video connection, so S-Video is your best-case alternative.

Picture quality is acceptable, but not great: the LP130 lacks the depth of field, that sense of three-dimensionality and realism, that characterises the best projectors here. Edges are well-defined, digital noise restricted, and colours are generally consistent, but it's still not exactly cinematic. Worthy, then, but not remarkable.


The InFocus LP130 can't match the cinematic quality of the best projectors here

NEC LT150

£4000

For Excellent picture for the price; good connectivity and ease of use

Against Nothing significant, considering the cost

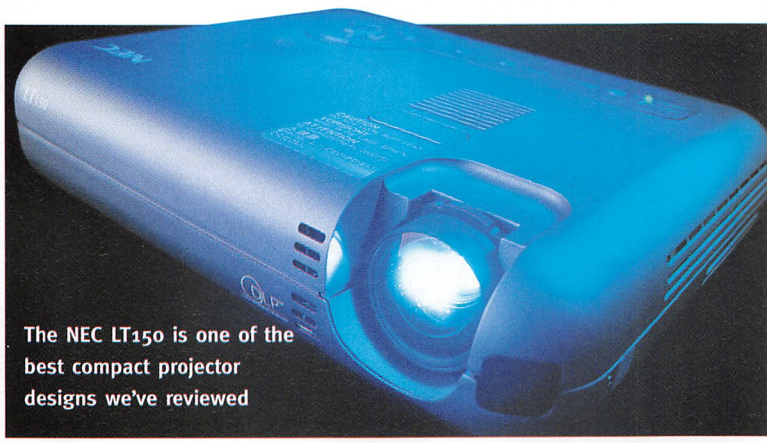
Verdict ★★★★★

Well worth a look – the NEC LT150 is a notable step up in performance over budget LCD designs

Every bit as tiny as the InFocus, the ultra-compact NEC (just 5cm high, 24cm wide and 20cm deep) is also ideal for business use, but it scores highly at home by offering progressive scan capability via component video, if only with a special adaptor.

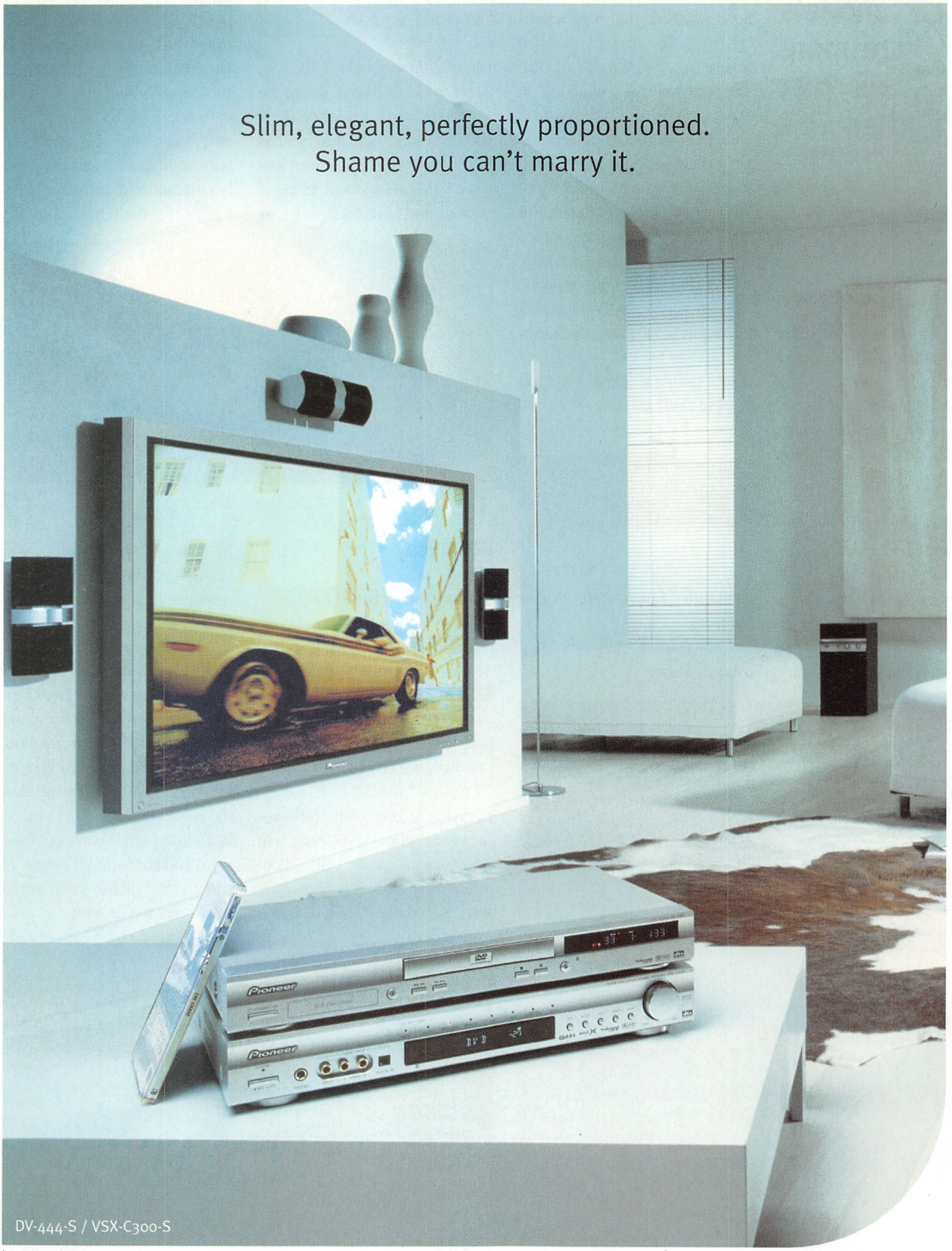
A credit-card type remote makes it easy to set-up and use, and the performance on offer is excellent for a unit of this type and size. Spend some tweaking, and the LT150 can produce "film-like" images, offering much better depth and 3D-effect than the similarly-priced InFocus.

Details are sharp, colours vivid and black depth fine at the price. One of the best micro-projectors we've seen.


The NEC LT150 is one of the best compact projector designs we've reviewed

Pioneer sound.vision.soul

Big performance from the world's slimmest component package. At only 120mm high, you simply can't get slimmer than our combined DVD DV-444-S and digital home cinema receiver VSX-C300-S. Yet being Pioneer, maximum pleasure is assured, especially as full frontal AV connectivity means you can easily link up your camcorder, game console or portable player. Take a look, but be warned. It'll be love at first sight.



DVD PLAYERS

DVD SYSTEMS

DVD PORTABLES

DVD CAR ENTERTAINMENT

DVD CAR NAVIGATION

DVD RECORDERS*

http://www.pioneer.co.uk

*Available end 2001

SIM2 HT200 DM

£6300

For Superb picture quality; well-equipped; easy to use; attractive

Against Nothing of significance, given the cost

Verdict ★★★★★

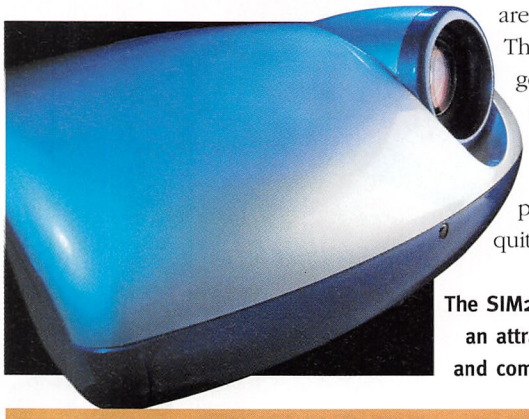
Astonishing. The best image quality we've seen at this price, plus the best argument yet for DLP designs

We've used a Seleco (now SIM2) CRT projector as reference kit for ages, but the firm is increasingly moving to newer DLP designs.

The HT200 DM (for Dual Mode) features two-mode circuitry to suit 4:3 and 16:9 images. Its core innovation is the use of a six-segment colour wheel, rather than the usual three-segment type (see *DLP Explained* panel), and this helps to eliminate the "rainbow effect" that can spoil some viewers' enjoyment of DLP projection.

Progressive scan (NTSC or PAL) is on the cards via the component video inputs, and fan noise is not especially intrusive. Besides, the real deal is the picture: the SIM2 has no similarly-priced peer for image quality. Black depth is outstanding, possibly the best we've seen from DLP, while colours are very vivid.

The HT200 DM gets closer to a true cinema feel than any rival at this price. Quite, quite brilliant.



The SIM2 HT200 DM is an attractively styled and compact projector

Yamaha DPX-1

£6500

For Great picture; quiet; good connections; easy to use

Against Nothing significant for a product of this type

Verdict ★★★★★

A real surprise from a firm better known for audio products – should raise a few eyebrows at Sony...

Yamaha's first foray into the video projection world is something of a success story. The DPX-1 uses the latest DLP processing to deliver an excellent picture, with particularly good black depth, and it's fully compatible with NTSC (but not PAL) progressive scan, via component video terminals mounted in the unit's side.

As with most other DLP projectors, you can be aware of the "rainbow" effect (see *DLP Explained*) if you really look for it, but otherwise, there's not a great deal to criticise at the price. Clever ducting on the fan also ensures extremely low fan noise – among the lowest available, short of fan-free designs.

For a novice in this market, Yamaha has produced a deeply impressive system.

Yamaha has hit top form with its first foray into the projector field

MONEY AND HOUSE-SPACE NOT AN ISSUE? WHY NOT TRY A CRT PROJECTOR FOR SIZE?

Why don't we all have CRT projectors in our front rooms? Bulk is one big issue, coupled to sheer complexity, cost and most of all, regular maintenance.

Each of the three tubes represents a colour, one red, one green, the other blue, and the three colour tubes have to be correctly aligned, or "converged", on to the screen to ensure correct colours, and accurate definition.

So if they're so big, bulky and demanding, why do people buy 'em? Performance, in a nutshell. The best CRTs can produce outstandingly filmic images, full of depth and life. CRTs particularly excel at contrast, generating true black levels.

Yet the long-term picture for CRT projection is far from rosy. Many observers feel that within three years, it could go the way of the dodo. DLP, it seems, is the future.

Your questions answered

What's so good about CRT?
Image smoothness, realistic colour, and most importantly depth of field; CRTs still give an outstanding cinema-quality 3D feel, because of their high contrast. You also get "artifact-free" imaging, with no digital nasties to spoil the party, no "visible lattice" patterns (as with LCD projectors), and very smooth motion across the screen.

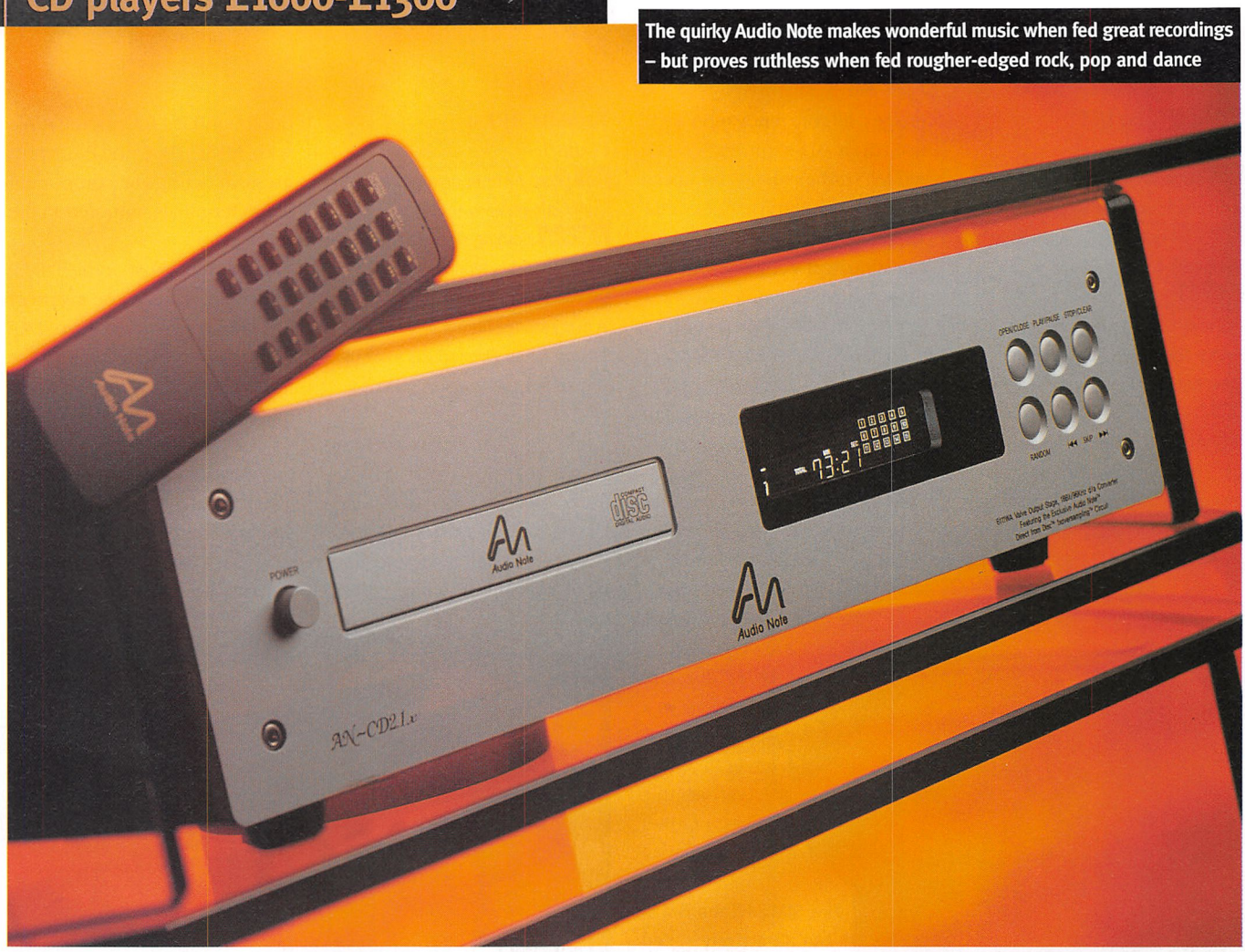
How easy is it to live with and set-up?
CRT projectors are huge. Our reference SIM2 SVD500 is 29cm high, 62cm wide and 70cm deep, and it weighs 37kg. You don't put something like this on a coffee table, at least not without thinking carefully about the consequences. As for set-up, well, forget it – CRTs need to be installed, set-up and maintained by professionals. The whole process can be the work of days, not hours. And you must also have it regularly serviced – annually is ideal – to maintain optimum performance.

What's the most affordable way in?
Around £3500-£4000 will get you a basic CRT from the likes of Ellie, while there are several used, reconditioned models on the market worth considering. You'll also need to budget for a good screen and cabling, and most importantly, for proper installation.

Can I upgrade it later?
Depends on the model, but usually, no problem. Most CRTs respond readily to external "line doublers" or other video-enhancing gizmos (such as the iScan Pro box), and you'll also see benefits from better-quality screens.

Just how good is the picture?
In the right circumstances, fantastic. CRTs produce wonderfully smooth, film-like images. The results aren't as oh-wow bright or dramatic as some DLP designs, but for realism and quality, they're hard to top.

Will I be able to tell the difference over LCD and DLP designs?
With LCD: definitely yes and then some. With DLP: it's getting harder to say. We'd still say yes, although as you'll have gathered by now, much depends on the set-up job you've had done, as well as correct maintenance. Ideally, we'd still plump for CRT, but DLP has a lot going for it in other areas, not least the most obvious elements of size, convenience and ease of use.



The quirky Audio Note makes wonderful music when fed great recordings – but proves ruthless when fed rougher-edged rock, pop and dance

CD's last hurrah?

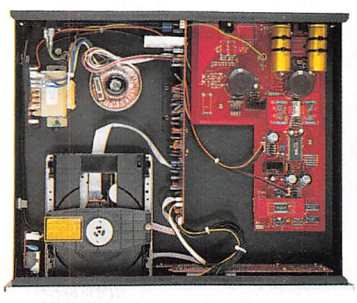
With new formats promising a world of six-channel music, why invest in a new CD player? We test the machines that are still moving the art forward

Audio Note CD2.1x £999

WHAT'S IT GOT?
DAC 24/96
Digital out Coaxial
Analogue out Phono
Headphone socket No
Display off Yes

Sounding like no other CD machine we know, the Audio Note is the most sonically distinctive of the players here. And given the very defined characters of the opposition, that's saying something. It's all to do with the way the company builds its digital-to-analogue conversion (DAC) systems, leaving out the digital filters you'll find in every other player. There's more on this in our panel over the page, but suffice to say that the player features what the company calls its '1x oversampling' system – ie it uses no oversampling at all to correct digital errors.

This does mean more noise gets through the 24-bit 96kHz DAC used here, but this is handled by gentle filtering in the analogue section, which also features valves in the output stage rather than the usual transistor-based amplification. The intention – and the result – is a player with a remarkably direct view of the music, but also one that's ruthless when it comes to rough or shoddy production.



The CD2.1x: valves at output stages

We love the Audio Note's direct, exciting presentation. Those whose musical tastes extend to some mainstream pop and rock discs, not to mention dance material, may find the sound too revealing: Toploader's *Onka's Big Moka* set sounds bright and raw, with little of the bass warmth other players deliver, and presents a really hard top end. Contrast that with the player's handling of a well-engineered disc such as Miles Davis's *Tutu*: the bass is firm and hard-hitting, and Davis's solo trumpet is afforded prime position. The Audio Note is even more convincing with classical music, Verdi's *Falstaff* showing excellent orchestral and vocal power with an enticing richness.

On the outside of the box, the design, build, fit and finish is done well enough to compete at this level, although some of its competitors in this test have little to fear. Sure, the casework is good and it has a nice thick metal front panel, but the Audio Note is let down by its rather plasticky remote control. That said, beauty's only skin deep and it's what goes on inside that would make you buy this machine. It's without a doubt a remarkable player for the money, but one which needs auditioning with care in the context of the music you play.

The Creek could, at first, sound a little humdrum when compared to rivals here – but listen longer, and you'll find a substantial-sounding player

Creek CD53 £1200

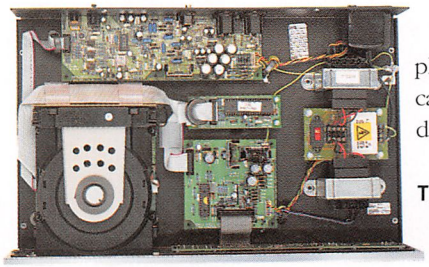
Creek's an unsung hero of the British hi-fi industry, arguably better known in the United States – thanks to a fanatical distributor – than in its homeland. It should be more famous: its understated products offer a combination of value and no-nonsense engineering.

WHAT'S IT GOT?

DAC 24/192
Digital out Coaxial/optical
Analogue out Phono/XLR
Headphone socket No
Display off Yes

The CD53 is pitched higher than the rest of Creek's mainstream range, being designed to match the £799 5350 amplifier. Controls are minimal and it uses a familiar-looking handset to manipulate the Philips-made transport, while outputs extend to conventional phonos and balanced XLRs, along with optical and electrical digital feeds.

Within, you'll find neoprene isolating the transport from vibrations and Creek's own software to controlling it, along with an in-house master clock and jitter reduction system for minimal distortion. The digital-to-analogue conversion is a 24-bit/192kHz set-up. Twin transformers are used for optimal power supply isolation between the digital and analogue sections, while a the whole clock/DAC/jitter reduction system is on a single board, which is removable to allow future upgrades.



There's much evidence of Creek's own design work under the CD53's lid

On first listen the Creek plays down its abilities, and can even sound a little humdrum beside some of the more overt sonic characters on display in this test. Listen more fully, however, and you learn that this is a substantial-sounding player, as well suited to showcasing orchestral work as it is to tempering the rough edges of rock and dance.

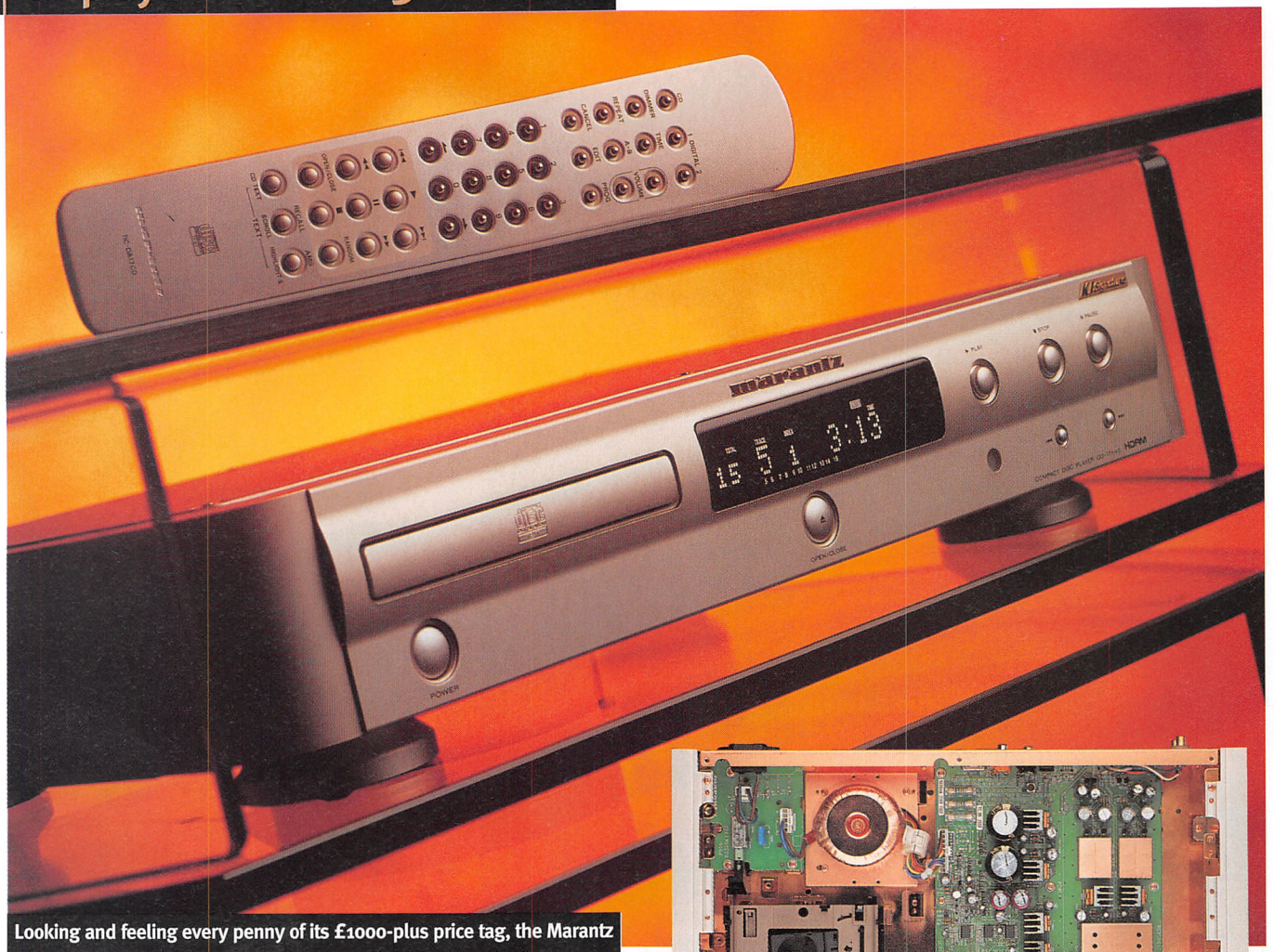
The trade-off for this is a slightly rich bass, which can make some music driven by deep electronic bass lines a shade slow-sounding, but then you'll appreciate the control and clarity in the midband and treble. There's good vocal and instrumental character with everything from bombastic prog rock to plaintive vocals, and plenty of presence with orchestral recordings. Some will find it a mite too lush and slow, but in our view the Creek is a mature, involving listen.

WHO'D PAY OVER £1000 FOR A CD PLAYER?

Given that you can buy a perfectly capable disc spinner for under £100, how can another cost 10 times as much? Part of the answer lies in production volumes: most of the players here are built by small companies – at least in comparison with Japanese giants like Sony – so there are fewer economies of scale.

Also, these smaller companies have selected higher quality components for their players, and undertaken research allowing them to tune the bought-in sections – such as transports and DACs – for optimum performance.

There are also tooling costs for those high-quality cases, which add to the rigidity of the player, and thus help damp out distortion-inducing vibrations. The result, on the whole, is machines that are handbuilt, look good, and are designed to perform.



Looking and feeling every penny of its £1000-plus price tag, the Marantz offers a brightly lit, fast and dynamic sound that won't suit all tastes

Marantz CD-17Mk2 KI £1199

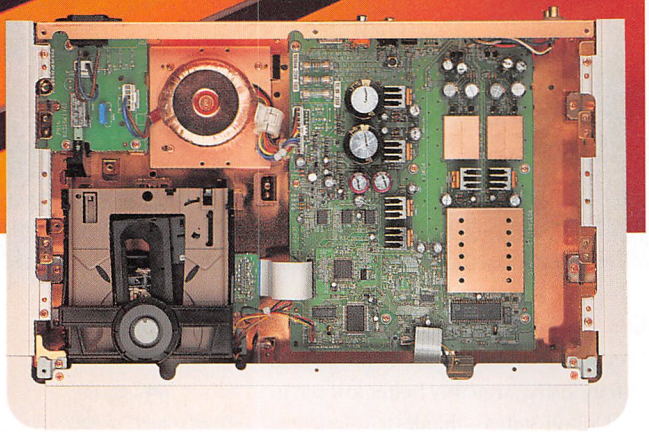
WHAT'S IT GOT?
DAC BitStream
Digital out Coaxial/optical
Analogue out Phono
Headphone socket No
Display off Yes

Outwardly, the Marantz has little but the now familiar KI Signature badging to distinguish it from the standard £800-ish CD-17Mk2. That's because all the money is spent on the really sound-critical stuff, not extra cosmetics.

In the CD-17Mk2 KI, the seventh product to carry the little gold badge and based on an already hefty player, this extends to weight added to the chassis for greater rigidity and better damping, reinforcement of the metal side cheeks for the same effects, plus copper plating for better earthing and shielding. The regulators are also covered with copper-plated shields, while gold-plated covers are installed on the output stage amp modules, which are high-grade versions of the Marantz HDAMs.

The player already had a Philips fully-floating transport feeding the celebrated DAC7 single-bit conversion, again from Marantz's former parent company. Add to that the combination of solid metal, smooth styling and one of the sexiest remote handsets around, and you have a machine that looks every penny of its price-tag.

More to the point, it sounds it, too: we know that not everyone gets on with the brightly-lit, fast and dynamic Marantz sound, but there's no denying it can get you to the heart of the music. The mixture of extended, powerful bass, open and informative midband and explicit treble does make this player revealing of poorly-produced discs, making some mainstream titles sound either rough and ready or notably compressed, but fed with a good recording it really sings. And not just brand new discs – we had fun with Kate Bush's *Never for Ever* set, and the Marantz also sounded thundersome with Pink Floyd's *The Division Bell*, as well as thundering out the recent Janet Jackson *All For You* set (one of the best produced discs we've heard this year, in our humble opinion).



Soundstaging is excellent, and voices have beautiful character, right down to each snatched breath, making this a fine player for everything from smoky jazz to big orchestral and choral works. If you're in the market for a player at this kind of price, you owe it to yourself to take a long, hard listen.

HOW THEY CRUNCH THE DATA

Most players handle CD data with a package of error correction, digital filtering, digital-to-analogue conversion and analogue output stage. The Audio Note does away with the first stage of this, and while this does mean extra noise at the DAC's output, this is handled by extra filtering in the analogue stage, shifting it out of the audible band. Other than the Audio Note player, we have variations on the single-bit and multibit themes. Single-bit, or bitstream, technology handles each piece of data singly, the conversion running at a higher speed, while multibit systems such as that in the Naim handle the data in packets of bits. In CD's early days, each kind of conversion had a distinctive sound, but technology has moved on since then.

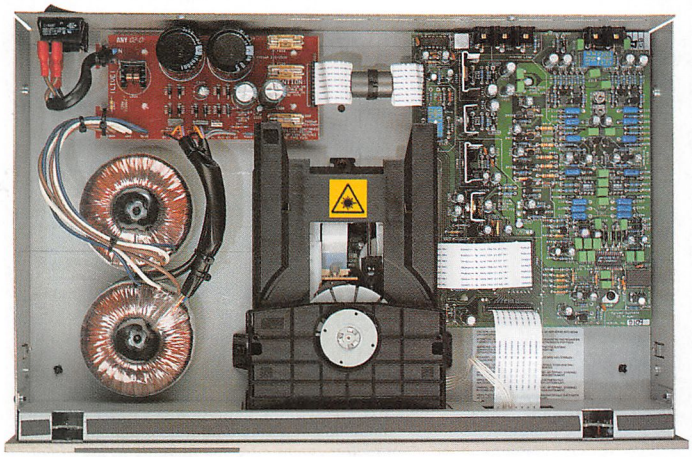
Packing a 24-bit DAC, the MCD 600 can sound rather ordinary on first acquaintance – but its confidence grows on you after a longer audition

Myryad MCD 600 £1300

WHAT'S IT GOT?
DAC 24/192
Digital out Coaxial
Analogue out Phono
Headphone socket No
Display off Yes

The Myryad sits at the top of the price range here, but its class justifies the cost. And not just the sound: the understated brushed metal (available in silver or black) and solidity make it seem even more expensive. Everything operates with total precision, from the loader to the minimal fascia controls, and though the remote advertises its plastic casing too loudly, it does the job. The player can also be 'driven' via the MY-Link system, connectors for which are found at the rear.

The conversion technology aims for improved dynamics and low-level detail by using a 24-bit delta/sigma system in dual differential mode. Other tuning points include close attention to the circuit layout and power supplies, Myryad products having a reputation for meticulous attention to detail. This player is in fact a development of the acclaimed MCD 500, a player we liked for its dynamics, speed and control, and builds on those qualities.



Myryad's well-earned reputation for meticulous attention to detail lives on in the MCD 600

Fire up the player and it's immediately noticeable that there isn't the overt character here of, say, the Audio Note or the Naim. Indeed, the MCD 600 can sound a little ordinary on first listen, but the way its confidence and control grows on you suggests a long audition is needed if its qualities are to be appreciated.

Yes, it's certainly revealing and detailed. In fact it's as good with the subtle nuances of Miles Davis's tonguing as with the ambience of a concert-hall classical disc. But that's not to say that this is one of those players with a tendency toward hard edges, even when rough rock or dance discs are played. No, with that sort of material what strikes the listener is the speed and drive in the rhythms, and the way the bass is extended without smearing or slowness. Play anything from Toploader to *Dark Side of the Moon* and the big, fast sonic picture, with fine detail and total confidence, is very hard not to like. It's thrilling stuff, and a fine example of what the right kind of four-figure spend can deliver.

We tested them with
REFERENCE
Amp processor **TAG AV32R/100x5R**
CD player **Marantz CD7**
Speakers **Monitor Audio Studio 20SE**
Subwoofer **MJ Acoustics Pro 50**
Interconnects **Chord Co Anthem/Siren**
Speaker cable **Chord Co Odyssey 4**
PRICE COMPATIBLE
Amplifier **Arcam DiVA A85**

A thrill a minute, the solidly-built CD5 may not win over listeners who like to relax to their music – but you can't buy more excitement for the money

Naim CD5 £1125

WHAT'S IT GOT?
DAC 18-bit
Digital out No
Analogue out DIN
Headphone socket No
Display off Yes

Naim products have long enjoyed a reputation for tank-like build quality, a sound that's never dull and a clear upgrading path. Oh, and the defiant use of locking DIN sockets for connection when the rest of the world has opted for either phonos or XLRs.

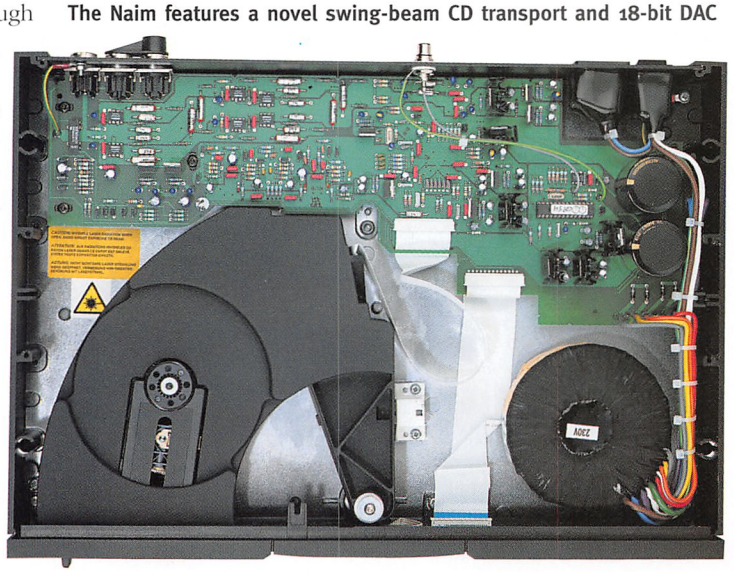
You'll find most of those traits still on display in the entry-level Series 5 range. The visible technology of the CD5 will seem familiar, with the novel swing-out loading mechanism and magnetic puck to hold the disc in place looking like that used in the CD3.5, although it is in fact a Philips VAM1205 transport with Hall-effect motor, controlled by in-house software.

Naim has stuck to tried and trusted technology when it comes to the number-crunching, too – most players these days use variations on single-bit conversion, but here we have an 18-bit 4x oversampling system. Dual windings on the large toroidal transformer power digital and analogue sections separately, and as with all Naims there's the option of upgrading your player later with an offboard power supply.

This player deserves serious consideration for systems that aren't all-Naim. Yes, that familiar verve and enthusiasm is in evidence – few companies' products grip and drive rhythms with such conviction – but this isn't the bright, hard-edged presentation Naims are often (and incorrectly) thought to give.

Instead, the CD5 just gets on with the job, delivering the power of orchestral strings and a pounding electronic dance beat in just as exciting a manner. True, it's very revealing of discs cynically mixed to sound good on the radio (but nowhere else), but feed it with some good recordings and it will draw you in and refuse to let go. Whether with the pomp of David Arnold's *Independence Day* soundtrack or the deep bass and ambient effects of the *Reich:Remixed* dance set, this player is able to thrill with rhythmic acuity as well as its ability to hit hard with a sudden brass entrance, and it does so reliably and enthrallingly. It's a stunning sound, and while it won't appeal to those who like their music smooth and relaxing, for sheer musical involvement things don't get much better for the money. In short, we love it.

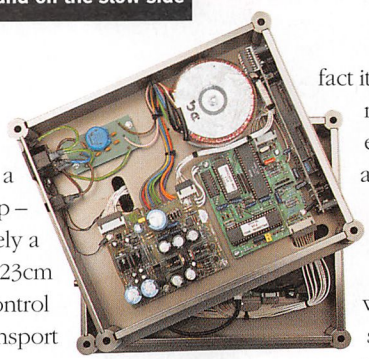
The Naim features a novel swing-beam CD transport and 18-bit DAC



An unusual package (just 23cm across), the CD Master manages plenty of weight and authority – even if bass lines can sound on the slow side

Sugden Bijou CD Master £1250

Everything about the Sugden Bijou system is unusual, from the mini system styling to the configuration of a complete set-up – it uses a headphone amp/preamp to feed the power amp – and the CD Master is no exception. It's effectively a two-box player bolted into one compact (just 23cm wide) package, the upper box containing the control and display circuitry and the lower one the transport and digital-to-analogue conversion system.



The basic parts include a heavily-modified Philips transport and 18-bit conversion (see what we mean about unusual?), with Sugden-designed circuitboards throughout, including the zero-feedback low-impedance output stage. The remote handset is a plasticky affair seen with so many players – and some here – but the CD Master also responds to Philips RC5 codes from a variety of handsets. Completing the minimal facilities is a single digital output, on an electrical phono connection.

WHAT'S IT GOT?

DAC 18-bit
Digital out Coaxial
Analogue out Phono
Headphone socket No
Display off Yes

In use, this is another of those players that sound underwhelming on first acquaintance, its sound even seeming a little laid-back and lazy. But start spinning a few discs and it soon becomes apparent that this player is anything but overwarm and lush – in fact it has a big, well-extended bass allied to an expressive midband and fine treble detailing, but without a rough edge in earshot. The result is a sound with plenty of authority with large-scale classical music, and plenty of weight with smaller ensembles and jazz discs, but still with an attractive sense of space and ambience.

Yes, that bass is a little over-prominent at times, and while this does make forward and edgy production such as that on the Toploader disc somewhat more tolerable, it can make fast bass lines sound a shade slow. For that reason the player may not appeal to the out and out dance or thrash fan, but for the majority of listeners the balance here is persuasive, and just the kind of thinking that's kept the Yorkshire company in business for the past 40 years. Add in the unusually cute styling, and you have a highly appealing package.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION says

	sound	build	features	verdict
Audio Note	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★
Creek	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆
Marantz	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Myryad	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
Naim	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
Sugden	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆

Conclusion

The Creek and Sugden are warm with classical but a little soft with rock, while the Myryad is good (but not brilliant) across the board. The Audio Note is amazing with the right disc, almost unlistenable with the wrong one, while the Marantz is a cracking all-rounder. But for its excitement, drive and insight into the music, it's the Naim CD5 that gets our vote.

How to set the record straight

Whether you want a cassette, MiniDisc or CD recorder, we pick the best

They used to say that home taping was killing music, and the way the music industry mercilessly hunted down Napster shows that the powers that be aren't keen on allowing copyright recordings to roam free. But there is a tacit acknowledgement that home recording is essential for music lovers, be it knocking out a tape of your current favourite CD to slip in the car stereo or making a compilation of your favourite tunes onto one handily portable MiniDisc. Certainly the hi-fi business has never been backward at coming forward with ever-improving recorders, and it's fair to say that some sort of home recording device is usually seen as a key part of most people's hi-fi set-up.

There was a time when the only recording medium was the humble audio cassette tape. And while the advent of recordable digital media, which claim not to lose any musical fidelity during reproduction, was supposed to sound the death knell for tape, it's still a very popular way to listen to music. The tape decks we've lined up here illustrate this: some are twin-deck, allowing tape-to-tape recording, while some are single-deck affairs designed to capture your favourite discs.

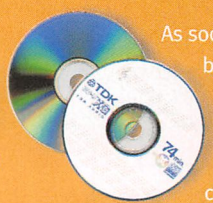
However, there's no denying the rise of the digital formats. Once MiniDisc had fought off Digital Compact Cassette as the most convenient form of digital recording, it soon developed a legion of dedicated followers. Easy to manipulate – tracks order can be changed at the push of a button, track names tapped in by the listener – MiniDisc also caught the eye of the hi-fi creators, enabling them to produce ever smaller kit. Recent months have also seen the potential capacity of MDs rise, albeit with a loss of quality.

Quality is in no way uniform

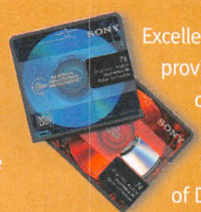
Those who haven't tried MiniDiscs may get into digital recording through CD-R, which has taken longer to appear but benefits from widespread familiarity with the format. The ideal of facsimile copies of your favourite CDs is a tempting one, but exercise caution: recording quality is in no way uniform across the range of CD recorders, although quality is improving all the time as CD-R gains in popularity. Another boon to CD-R is the ability to store vast numbers of music MP3s on a single CD; if you have a CD or DVD player which recognises MP3 files burned onto CD-R or CD-RW discs, you could get ten hours of music onto one shiny plastic disc...

WAYS OF RECORDING

Reports of the death of the cassette tape have been greatly exaggerated. While in terms of quality it has been superseded by digital recording media, tape remains popular thanks to the widespread use of cassette Walkmans and car stereos. And of course there's none of the technofear associated with new technology. Many still feel their stereo system isn't complete without a decent tape player.



As soon as Compact Disc became the unassailable, unquestionable leader of hi-fi playback, it was only a matter of time before the clamour for recordable CDs was met with an appropriate response from the manufacturers. CD-R machines, however, vary immensely in recording quality, and playback often doesn't match the sonic performance of dedicated CD players, but a little wise shopping can unearth a great deal.



Excellent for ease of transport, providing super sonics through its digital reproduction and a raft of editing options: MiniDisc has fought off the challenge of Digital Compact Cassette to become the digital recording medium of choice for many. Whether it will see off CD-R, fast emerging as an affordable alternative, is a different matter, but few who have experimented with MiniDiscs have been disappointed with the outcome.

Denon DMD1000

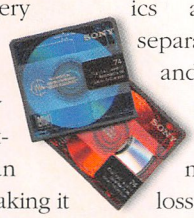
£300 ★★★★☆

For Great looks; decent recording; impressive playback; weighty bass

Against Rather bright treble; shortly to be phased out

Verdict A good buy for the money, but not the best recorder available

The DMD1000 is an impressive item that looks every penny of its price tag. The black fascia houses a clear display alongside myriad buttons arranged in an uncluttered manner, making it easy to name tracks or tinker with the plethora of editing functions that MiniDisc offers. With straight playback, the DMD1000 is impressive; its uncompressed sound may not be up there with the very best in sonic reproduction, but there's enough detail and insight to satisfy. And while the treble is a bit on the bright side, bass has good weight and solidity. Recordings retain much of their original dynamics and pace, while separation, soundstaging and focus stay respectably true to the original. All you may suffer is a slight loss of detail in the tonal extremes. The Denon is a respectable recorder for the money, but there are rivals out there to outclass it.



Denon DRW-585

£200 ★★★★★

For Solid build; detailed playback; faithful tape-to-tape recordings

Against Not the newest machine; recording loses some dynamics

Verdict A belting recorder with more than adequate playback

A solidly-built machine with responsive, no-nonsense keys, the DRW-585 has been around for some time now. But it's none the worse for its age, not least because it still boasts an impressive array of features – including autoreverse replay and recording, Dolby B and C noise reduction plus HX Pro (no Dolby S, though). Playback from pre-recorded material is delivered with passion and detail. Recordings are equally good, although some of the original's dynamics are lost along the way. Tape-to-tape recordings are remarkably faithful, although of course can't match recordings made from CD – a failing that's even more evident if you use the high-speed option. Still, the '585 is a cracker of a recorder, and proves a hard act for other twin-deck machines to beat, while offering the kind of convenience that some of its rivals can only imagine.

Hitachi RMD100

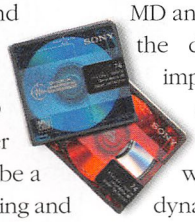
£180 ★★★★☆

For Ease of use; low price; quality recording with good dynamics

Against Playback is no more than adequate, from either source

Verdict A good starter one-stop digital recording solution

Offering simplicity and convenience for under £200, the RMD100 boasts a CD player and MD recorder in one box. Build may be a tad lightweight, but editing and naming of MiniDiscs is easy via the fascia controls and small remote. However, though recording from CD to MD is a doddle (just press the synchro record button and you're off), there are no digital inputs or outputs – which makes the built-in CD player the only digital recording option. Playback from both sources is adequate: true, the presentation is uncoloured and there's plenty of thump to the sound, but compared to similarly-priced MD and CD players, it lacks the drive to thrill and impress. On the positive side, recording produces better results, with a good handle on dynamics and more than enough detail to satisfy most listeners. Overall, the Hitachi makes a good one-stop digital recording solution. It's no giant killer, but will work well in a starter system.



Kenwood DMF-5020

£279 ★★★☆☆

For Good recording ability; packed with features

Against Awkward operation; poor build; mediocre playback

Verdict A recorder at this price should be able to play well too

The bigger brother of the '3020 featured over the page, the DMF-5020 is somewhat betrayed by its build. The fascia and controls feel plasticky and unresponsive, and operation is tricky and unintuitive. That said, the Kenwood has all of the MiniDisc features we know and love – synchro record, sampling rate converter and the usual roster of naming and editing functions. The rear panel, meanwhile, features optical, coaxial and analogue ins/outs. When it comes to sound quality, pre-recorded discs sound hazy and compressed, while the DMF-5020's own recordings sound much the same. Yet strangely, pop a Kenwood-recorded disc into a better MD player, and much of the original's sparkle and atmosphere returns. We can only conclude that the Kenwood's faults lie in its digital-to-analogue conversion section, rather than its laudable copying ability. For £279, we expect the best of both worlds.

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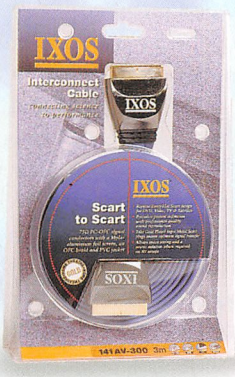

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"Picture quality is neigh on perfect – undoubtedly a top-performing model in terms of build quality, as well as picture and sound performance. A great buy."

★★★★★

Home Entertainment BEST BUY ★★★★★

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Kenwood DMF-3020

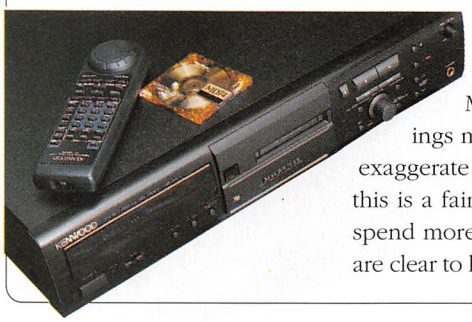
£180 ★★★☆☆

For A veritable smorgasbord of features; excellent imaging

Against Muffled presentation; even more muffled recording

Verdict Not bad as a first recorder, but there is much better available

There's no denying that the Kenwood DMF-3020 is a budget model; even if you weren't aware of the low price-tag, the plasticky build would give the game away. However, Kenwood hasn't scrimped when it comes to features. There's the usual versatile recording and naming options, plus excellent jog dial for track selection. Both input and output connections are provided for digital coaxial and optical, in addition to analogue stereo. That said, some of the various functions are not so easy to force into life, in part due to the lack of controls (you have to press a bamboozling combination of the scant buttons to activate one operation). Pre-recorded discs are afforded excellent imaging in a well-proportioned soundstage. Unfortunately, some of the air, detail and space that make a piece really come to life are missing, the presentation having a somewhat muffled quality. Moreover, recordings made on the '3020 exaggerate this trait. Overall, this is a fair starter deck, but spend more and the benefits are clear to hear.



Kenwood KXF-W4030

£160 ★★★☆☆

For Feature-packed; reasonable tape-to-tape copying; good value

Against Poor double-speed copies; loss of power in playback

Verdict Not bad for a double deck, but you can do better

A physically imposing machine that falls some way short of being handsome, this Kenwood boasts a healthy array of features, including Dolby B and C noise reduction plus Dolby HX Pro. As with most twin decks, double speed tape-to-tape copies suffer, but those made at normal speed are actually quite reasonable – albeit with noticeable reduction in dynamics compared to the original. Playback also suffers by comparison to that offered by some of its rivals, the most prominent feature being a loss of power and impact. The 'W4030 is a decent enough double-deck machine, and offers fair value for money. However, unless you've got a Kenwood system to take advantage of the CD synchro recording facility (there's an SL-16 connector in the back panel) there are better decks to be found for a similar financial outlay.

Philips CDR600

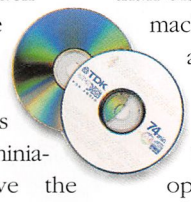
£230 ★★★☆☆

For Recordings sound almost identical to the source; low price

Against Ergonomic nightmare; playback lacks definition

Verdict A good recorder but a bad player, even for the price

Ergonomics took a back seat during the CDR600's design, with the main disc transport functions relegated to a row of miniature controls above the loading drawer. Even stranger, the supplied remote gives you no way of actually starting recording. On the subject of which, recordings on the CDR600 are very impressive, sounding identical to the source, provided you copy digitally and play the resultant disc on another machine; playback on the CDR600 is like old-fashioned BitStream, combining softness and distance to rob the music of atmosphere and definition. Yes, the Philips is cheaply priced, but no more so than discount deals on better machines. And while it has a lot of functions, it's designed so that using them is a hassle due to the limited range of options on the remote control. Sure, the recordings it makes sound great when played back on another player, but spin them through the CDR600 and the result is unexceptional. Even at the low cost of £230, the Philips is disappointing.



Pioneer CT-W606 DR

£200 ★★★★☆

For Great looks; a host of features; detailed playback

Against The tonal balance tends toward the over-bright

Verdict A good budget buy for tape-to-tape recording

The Pioneer is an attractive machine, with its twin decks placed either side of intuitively laid out controls and a clear, informative display. It has a host of features and tweaks designed to get the best from your tapes, including FLEX (Frequency Level Expander) to improve high frequency performance, and TDNS (Tape Duplication Noise Suppressor) to limit hiss when dubbing between decks. All well and good, but how does it sound? Pre-recorded tapes are presented with fine levels of detail, even if the tonal balance is a little on the bright side. Using the tape-to-tape facility results in a decent facsimile; dynamics and detail remain faithful, though that slightly lifted treble is still present. In short, it's a good budget buy for people who want to copy from one cassette to another. If that isn't your main priority, look somewhere else.

Pioneer PDR-609

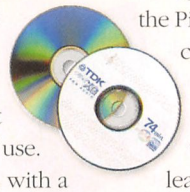
£280 ★★★★★

For Solid construction; good features; excellent value for money

Against Replay quality isn't as good as it could be

Verdict Functional and stylish, it's an excellent entry-level recorder

Our recorder Product of the Year in our Awards 2001, the '609 offers sensational value for money, allied to great ergonomics and ease of use. It's solidly constructed, with a firm disc drawer and responsive buttons, which helps when recording. Connection options are standard, with coaxial and optical ins/outs, and the same again for analogue. It may look simple, but the Pioneer has an impressive host of features, including handy double-speed disc finalisation and CD-text compatibility. The player makes it easy to create first-rate copies from any source, helped by the manual recording-level controls. While the Pioneer's replay quality cannot match that of the very best, it is a remarkably good value product – and leaves you with change to spend on blank discs. If you've already got a dedicated CD player you're happy with, this is one recorder you should definitely audition.



Pioneer MJ-D508

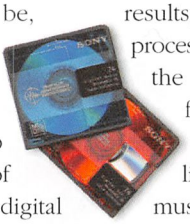
£200 ★★★★★

For Feature-packed, with an exciting, forward sound

Against Tonality tends towards the edgy and brash

Verdict A good recorder, but you have to like bright playback

Bargain-priced it may be, but the MJ-D508 is still packed with features. Advanced Parameter Processing is designed to improve the quality of recordings using extra digital signal processing, and Legato Link recreates data lost during digital encoding. The unit is decently built and the fascia fairly uncluttered, with a central disc slot above a clear display and a headphone socket with volume control. Playing MiniDiscs gives a sound that's subtly different to that of its smoother-sounding rivals, with an altogether more forward-sounding approach to making music. Recording gives good results, with the advanced processing seeming to limit the flaws that can arise from the format's data reduction. If you like rock and pop music with plenty of energy then this Pioneer is the best MiniDisc option at this price, although it's a bit edgy for classical listening. Still, a Best Buy.



Yamaha KX-580SE

£250 ★★★★★

For Stylish; good build quality; excellent recording

Against Only the cassette tape format's inherent limitations

Verdict Machines like this are keeping analogue recording alive

The original '580 was an Award winner no fewer than three times, and the SE version improved things. Indeed, this machine seems to have kept analogue recording alive over the past few years, and with good reason. It's stylish, build quality is first rate, and the display communicates the important information. Pre-recorded material comes across with impressive detail and refinement, while never sounding overly smooth or flat. But it's when recording that the '580 really shines. The impressive selection of Dolby B, C and S noise reduction – as well as HX Pro – aside, a Yamaha copy loses little to the original recording. There's a real edge with vocals, while tonal balance is impressively faithful to the original. On recording and playback, the KX-580SE is one of the best machines at the price. Listen to the Yamaha to find why the cassette market refuses to die.

Yamaha KX-493

£180 ★★★★★

For Punchy, dynamic playback; excellent recording

Against Doesn't have the greatest range of features

Verdict A risk-free buy for recording and playback

When it comes to budget tape decks, Yamaha is one of the strongest manufacturers around, and the '493 is a fine example of the company's purist style. Features are limited to just those that benefit sound quality, so you get Dolby B, C and HX Pro, as well as auto bias to ensure that settings are correct whatever tape you use. Playback boasts the kind of punch and dynamics that some of its rivals only hint at, following even the most complex mixes with ease. The story is just as positive when it comes to recording. The well-designed level meters make it easy to set recording levels correctly, and apart from a subtle rounding-off of detail and attack compared to the original, results are just fine. We rate the Yamaha very highly and if you're after a quality deck at this sort of price, and don't need a twin deck, you can buy the KX-493 with confidence.

Sony MDS-JE770

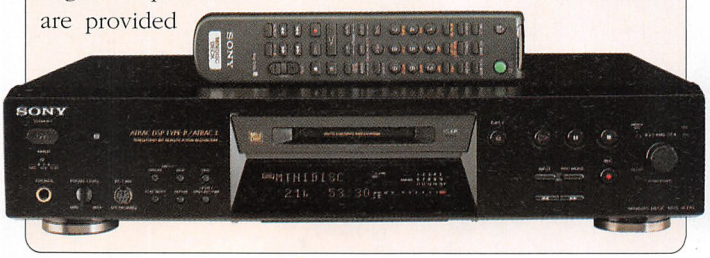
£260 ★★★★☆

For A whole host of functions; very good sound for MiniDisc

Against For this sort of money you can now buy a CD recorder

Verdict A very solid bet with excellent sound quality

The '770 features the latest ATRAC encoding, with improved bit allocation technology for better recordings, plus Scale Factor Edit, which lets you adjust the level of a recording after it has been made. And on top of the usual MD editing functions, you get a handy grouping system that lets you label and edit tracks in a block. Digital inputs are provided on both electrical and optical feeds, along with analogue in/outs, while the recorder has the usual sampling rate converter. The sound is very good by MiniDisc standards, and as long as your source player is in a similar price range it will be close to the original. For tasks such as making your own compilations to play on the move, or recording radio broadcasts, this machine is a very solid bet. However, for the same kind of money you can now buy a CD recorder capable of making near-perfect copies. But then you wouldn't get the long recording or editing abilities of MiniDiscs...



Sony MDS-JB940

£300 ★★★★★

For Marvellous sound; ease of use; quality playback

Against Slightly soft treble on the most revealing systems

Verdict An excellent buy with a strong range of features

The latest player to emerge from Sony's UK Special Edition programme, the '940 features a range of detail changes aimed at sound-enhancing tuning. And it sounds great, losing only a smidgen of air and space when compared with all but the very best CD players. The bass is big and rich, and although the treble is slightly soft, this will be masked in all but the most revealing systems. As for functions, the Sony is simple to use thanks to the usual menu-led system. You get preset levels for the various inputs (two optical digital feeds, one coaxial), as well as a master digital record level. The Sony's sonic results aren't bit perfect, as the best CD-RW copies are, but this is a fine playback machine too, playing its own discs better than price comparable CD-RW machines play theirs. Counsel for MiniDisc rests its case.

Yamaha KX-393

£140 ★★★★★

For Good looks; excellent auto-tape tuning features

Against Pause control is at best unpredictable, making edits tricky

Verdict A very impressive recorder for a very low price

A smart looker and smooth operator, the '393's buttons for play, 'intro search' and rewind/ff are set to mimic CD player controls, with recording controls set below. The auto-tape tuning is a particular boon; at the touch of a button, the Yamaha not only does a test recording, but leaves your cassette perfectly set at the end of the leader tape. Intelligent stuff. Recordings are excellent, with tonal balance spot on and only a slight softening of pace and treble frequencies. One failing: it's dreadful at pause control, doing an odd little backward jump when you pause it during a recording, making your re-entry point rather unpredictable and 'buffer' edits impossible. Otherwise, this is an impressive recorder at the price, offering clarity of recording and ease of use that prove why the cassette has lasted so long as a format despite the doomsayers.

Yamaha MDX-596

£229 ★★★★☆

For Impressive recordings with great levels of detail

Against The warmth of the sound won't be to everyone's taste

Verdict An impressive piece of budget kit if you like warm sound

The MDX-596 comes in Yamaha's standard industrial livery, complete with orange display, while flat, rectangular buttons across the bottom of the unit give it a very different look to its rivals. The unit favours optical in place of coaxial connections, although you do get a double dose of optical digital ins and a single out. You also get a set each of analogue inputs and outputs, plus another port for connecting to a Yamaha CD player for synchro recording. Recordings are impressive, with great levels of detail retained in the facsimile considering the Yamaha's very reasonable price point. Playback is good, but has a slightly different character from some of its rivals: Yamaha's Natural Sound Tuning accentuates the warmth of the music, resulting in a rather soft-sounding playback of some material. The '596 is an impressive piece of budget kit. If you like a warm sound, you'll like the Yamaha.

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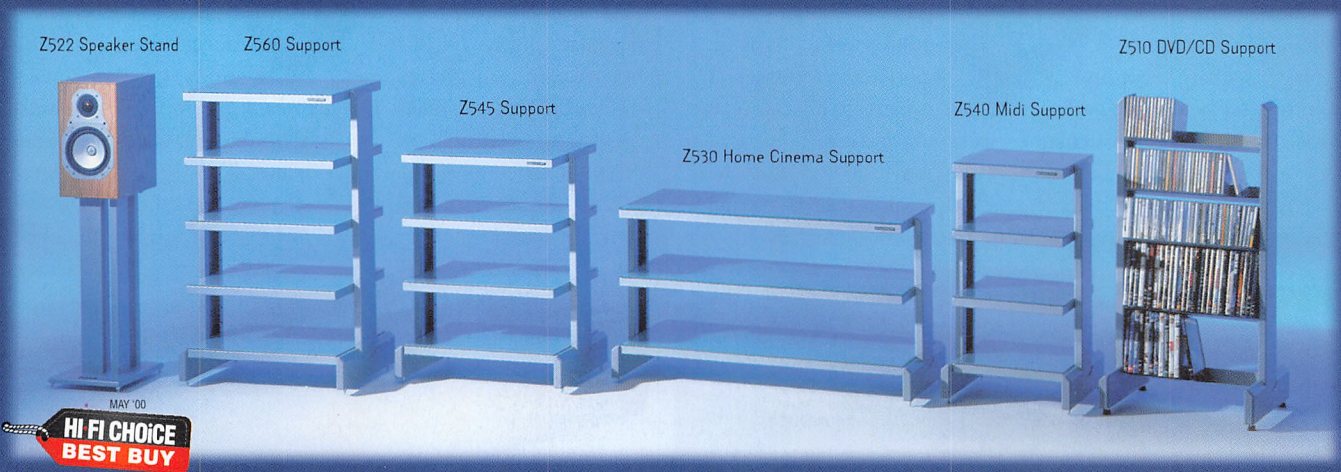

MAY '00

HI-FI CHOICE BEST BUY

((SOUND ORGANISATION))

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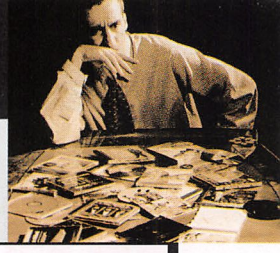
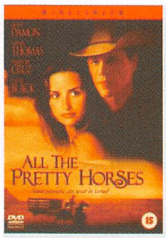


Scary movies loom large in our selection of test DVDs this month – horribly good for discovering just how spooky surround sound steering can be. It's behind you!

All The Pretty Horses Columbia Tristar (Cert 15)

Billy Bob Thornton's western is set in 1949 Mexico. A rites-of-passage tale of Matt Damon's Texan cowboy, it's both subtly funny and occasionally sickly sweet, but the disc's high standards do enough to keep you entertained.

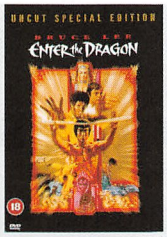
The wide-open vistas benefit from the anamorphic cinemascope picture, while the Dolby Digital 5.1 soundtrack rates highly for both atmospheric detail, and for a very effective period musical score.



Enter The Dragon Special Edition Warner (Cert 18)

Left ruined by the censors for far too long, Bruce Lee's major breakthrough movie is finally available in its original full version, nunchaku scene and all.

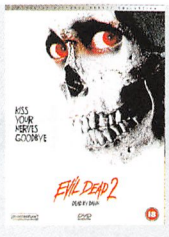
The picture is largely as before, a widescreen-enhanced cinemascope image, as is the Dolby Digital 5.1 audio, but this special edition DVD also features extensive extras, including an intriguing interview with Lee himself and a music-only soundtrack option.



Evil Dead 2 Momentum (Cert 18)

A comedy slasherfest with gallons of gore and some blinding one-liners. The effects are dated, some of the Harryhausen-style stop-motion animation plain laughable, but who cares: you watch a film-like this because you love it, simple as that.

It's a good transfer, too; the anamorphic letterbox picture's just a tad grainy, while the Dolby Digital 5.1 audio works well, especially in slash-packed scenes.



The Exorcist Warner (Cert 18)

Seems re-releases are the new DVD thang: first *Enter The Dragon*, now *The Exorcist*, with additional footage that, to quote the sleeve note, "you've never seen before".

More important, to our ears, is the additional of a Dolby Digital Surround EX audio score (yay!), which adds crucial creepiness to the rear-channel effects that dominate the movie. The anamorphic letterbox picture remains as before – a little grainy, but suitably "period".

The Fly/Fly 2 20th Century Fox (Cert 18)

A double-disc dose of insect horror, with BrundleFly's demise a macabre highlight.

Despite being far more recent (in terms of cinema release) than this month's other scary fare, both these flicks seem more dated: maybe it's Geena Davis's grim '80s fashions.

Both transfers are a little grainy, though the 1.85:1 video is anamorphically enhanced and the Dolby Digital 5.1 audio is solid.

Discs used this month

The Godfather Collection Paramount (Cert 18)

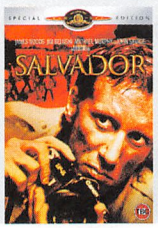
As you impatiently wait for the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* trilogies to hit DVD, feast your eyes on this classic triptych. There's plenty of sublime cinematography, sweeping drama and superb performances to sustain you.

Each movie features anamorphic video, Dolby Digital 5.1 audio, and (even in *Part III*) a ton of sheer cinematic class. An essential buy.

Halloween Anchor Bay (Cert 18)

Full marks to Anchor Bay for putting in more than the normal amount of technical effort to ensure that this horror classic has had the best possible DVD transfer.

Restored under the watchful eye of Lucasfilm THX (although there's no logo on the front of the box – tsk!) the cinemascope picture has been anamorphically enhanced, and the Dolby Digital 5.1 sound's been engineered from the ground up.



Salvador Special Edition MGM (Cert 15)

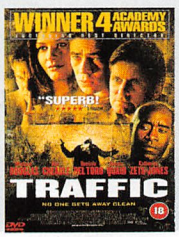
US Republicans went nuts at Stone's depiction of El Salvador's nightmarish turmoil in 1980, and even now, his stark depiction of American investment in a corrupt, morally bankrupt government doesn't make for easy viewing.

But James Woods has never been finer, and there are few more powerful political dramas around. The anamorphically-enhanced letterbox video and Dolby Digital 5.1 audio work well too.

Terminator 2 Judgment Day Momentum (Cert 18)

Officially the Austrian Oak's finest hour, *T2* is now available on UK Region 2 DVD, so if haven't already imported a US copy, go get yourself one of home cinema's finest testers.

Re-engineered with Dolby Digital Surround EX and DTS-ES 6.1 Matrix audio, it's sonically exceptional, and the outrageously comprehensive two-disc set includes tons of extras.



Traffic Entertainment in Video (Cert 18)

Hollywood does have a brain, after all. Steven Soderbergh's Oscar-winning *Traffic* is a densely-constructed, engrossing drug thriller illuminated by outstanding performances from its big-name cast.

EiV's disc features anamorphic letterbox video and a fine Dolby Digital 5.1 score, but to be honest, even if it was in mono, this'd grace any collection.

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WHAT HI-FI?
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Sound advice

Our one-stop guide to choosing, buying and getting the most from your hi-fi and home cinema set-ups

Helpline

Write to the Helpline at: WHAT HI-FI SOUND AND VISION? 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 OJE
E-mail the Helpline with postal address, to: *whfanswers@haynet.com*
Phone the Helpline on Fridays, from 3.30-5.30pm, on: 020 8267 5900

Please don't send SAEs, as we cannot reply to individual queries except through these pages.

CD and amp upgrade needed to gain control at high volumes

SOURCE MARANTZ CD67SE CD PLAYER, SYSTEMDEK XII TURNTABLE
POWER NAD 3130 AMPLIFIER
SPEAKERS B&W DM 603S
PROBLEM WHILE I'M FAIRLY PLEASED WITH THE SOUND FROM THIS SET-UP, IT'S A LITTLE UNCONTROLLED AT HIGHER VOLUMES AND THE BASS CAN SOUND MUDDLED ON FASTER ROCK AND DANCE TRACKS. I THINK MY AGEING AMP AND CD PLAYER ARE THE CULPRITS. FOR AMPLIFICATION I WAS CONSIDERING A NAD C370 WITH POSSIBLY A C270 TO BIAMP OR BRIDGE OR EITHER A MUSICAL FIDELITY A3 OR CYRUS 7. ON THE CD PLAYER FRONT THE MARANTZ CD6000KI SEEMS LOGICAL BUT WOULD AGAIN THE CYRUS CD7 OR MUSICAL FIDELITY A3 BE BETTER? MY BUDGET IS £1600 MAXIMUM FOR EVERYTHING AND I WOULD NEED A PHONO STAGE. MY LIVING ROOM IS 6.5X4M.
Jamie Coombs KENLEY, SURREY

WE SAY The NAD C370/C270 combination is potent when used to biamplify speakers, and we reckon what your system needs is more control, not oomph – so the biamp configuration will be more advantageous than using the two amps together in bridged

The Musical Fidelity X-Ray isn't the newest kid on the block but it's still worth giving it a good listen

ESSENTIAL TIPS

Choosing, using, and buying hi-fi equipment: our step-by-step guide to getting it right

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THE GOLDEN RULES

① Draw up a shortlist of kit before you go shopping.
② Set yourself a budget and try to stick to it if you can.
③ Insist on a demonstration, and trust your own ears.
④ A good dealer should let you try the kit at home.
⑤ Don't be bullied into buying kit you're not happy with.

AVOID WHITE VANS

If you are offered speakers for sale from the back of a van, don't buy them. Trading under the names Omni, Dynalab and Acoustic Monitor, the seller claims they're worth over £1000. They're not, so steer clear.

mode to give a hugely powerful stereo biwired set-up. The NADs have more than enough power when each amp is run in stereo, and the B&Ws aren't hugely demanding speakers, but do respond well to biwiring, or even better biamping. Use the C370 to drive the treble sections of the speakers and the C270 power amp to drive the bass.

The Musical Fidelity A3 and Cyrus 7 are both very fine stereo amps, but we think you'll soon be hankering after power amps; adding the A3 power or Cyrus SmartPower will soak up most of your budget, and you want a CD player upgrade too.

The CD6000KI is definitely worth considering: although some find its forthright, highly revealing sound a little too much, in combination with the NADs and the B&Ws it should create a very balanced system. If it's too bright for you, the Award-winning Arcam DiVA CD72 would be the player to go for, or you might want to investigate the Musical Fidelity X-Ray, which is an older machine but still a very fine buy.

Why the one-box system isn't necessarily the best solution

SOURCE TECHNICS SC-CH900 SYSTEM, PRO-LOGIC TV, TOSHIBA VIDEO
POWER TECHNICS SUA-900 AMPLIFIER
SPEAKERS BOSE ACOUSTIMASS-3 SYSTEM, BOSE V-300 HOME THEATRE
PROBLEM I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT SOME OF THESE "HOME CINEMA IN A BOX" SYSTEMS (IE SONY DAV-S300, TECHNICS NS-DV55) AS I'M CONSIDERING UPGRADING MY CURRENT MIDI HI-FI SYSTEM TO A DVD BASED SYSTEM BUT I'M ONLY LOOKING FOR CD AND TUNER FACILITIES ON THE AUDIO SIDE. MY HI-FI DEALER SAID THAT AS GOOD AS SOME OF THESE SYSTEMS ARE, YOU LOSE OUT ON PERFORMANCE AGAINST SEPARATES. I WAS TOLD ABOUT A COUPLE OF NEW SLIMLINE UNITS FROM PIONEER, THE VSX-C300-S AV AMP/RECEIVER AND THE DV-444-S DVD PLAYER. ANYTHING TO REPORT ON THESE?
YOU'VE ALSO MENTIONED THE TOSHIBA SD-210E DVD PLAYER, THE MARANTZ SR4200 AV RECEIVER AND THE DENON AV-F100 MINI AV SYSTEM. WOULD ANY OF THESE BE SUITABLE FOR HOOKING UP TO MY BOSE SPEAKER SYSTEM?
Dave Baird VIA E-MAIL

WE SAY We agree with your dealer. We like one-box solutions – they give convenience, style and decent performance – but we maintain that separates are still the best. The Denon AV-F100 system is a good alternative, with a higher quality of music performance and surround muscle than an all-in-one solution, but it still can't match the best results of many similarly-priced separates.

As for the new Pioneer kit that your dealer mentioned, we'll review them soon. For now, we're confident that the combination of Toshiba DVD player and Marantz receiver will deliver good performance across the board. It seems you're using the Technics system with the Acoustimass-3 speakers as a hi-fi system, with the V-300 system being driven by the Pro-Logic TV. Fine – but if you wish, it'd be easy to combine your home cinema and hi-fi into one solution. The Toshiba/Marantz pairing, using your existing V-300 speakers, would work well.

The Denon AV-F100 gives a better performance than a one-box system

2 WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR HI-FI SYSTEM: CD PLAYER

CD PLAYER
When buying a CD player check that it can handle CD-RW discs if you plan to use a lot of your own recordings.

REMOTE CONTROL
Look out for programming, which allows you to set the tracks to play in the order you want, and A/B repeat, which allows you to loop a section of music.

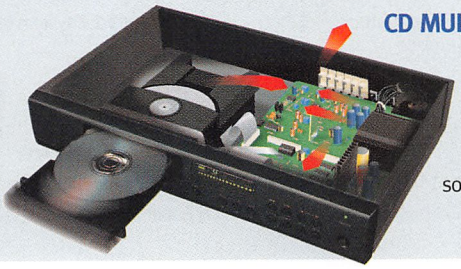
DIGITAL OUTPUT
This allows you to record digitally onto MiniDisc or CD-R and, in the future, bypass out-of-date digital-to-analogue circuits. There are two types: electrical (coaxial) and optical. In our opinion, electrical connections give the best sound quality.

HEADPHONE SOCKET
Handy for listening at night, but make sure it's got volume control. If your amplifier already has a headphone socket, you won't need one on the CD player, too.

VARIABLE OUTPUT
Allows you to adjust the volume without using the amplifier – useful if your amp doesn't have its own remote control.

DIMMABLE DISPLAY
Displays can spoil sound! Some players let you dim them or turn them off completely, so check to see if the player has this facility.

TRANSPORTS AND DACS
Some more expensive CD players come in two boxes, one being the transport for spinning the disc, the other containing the electronics for digital-to-analogue conversion. Keeping the disc separate from the electronics helps to improve sound quality.



CD MULTIPLAYERS
Some players can take more than one disc – in some instances as many as 200 – but do remember that at a given price, a single-disc player is likely to sound better than a multiplayer.

The time is fast approaching to update from muddle to multibit

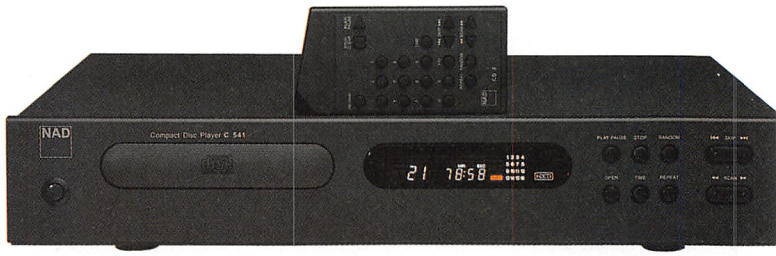
SOURCE ROTEL RCD-965BX CD PLAYER
REGA PLANAR 3 TURNTABLE
POWER NAIM NAIT 3 AMPLIFIER
SPEAKER A VERY OLD PAIR OF TANNOY MERCURY 1S SPEAKERS
PROBLEM I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT UPGRADING MY CD PLAYER AND SPEAKERS FOR SOME TIME AND WOULD WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS AS I MUST ADMIT I AM A BIT OUT OF TOUCH WITH CURRENT PRODUCTS. I MAY CONSIDER A SECONDHAND NAIM CD 3.5 TO PARTNER MY AMP BUT WOULD WELCOME ANY ALTERNATIVES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR SUITABLE SPEAKERS TO SUIT.
I LISTEN TO ALL KINDS OF MUSIC AND FIND THAT THE CD PLAYER I AM CURRENTLY USING FAILS TO DELIVER THE CLARITY I WOULD LIKE. WITH ROCK AND POP IN PARTICULAR EVERYTHING GETS A BIT MUDDLED. I FAVOUR A GOOD SOLID BASS BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF EVERYTHING ELSE. I'D APPRECIATE ANY ADVICE YOU COULD GIVE ME.
Dave Proctor STAMFORD, LINCS

WE SAY We liked the Rotel RCD-965BX – somewhere back in the mists of time, we gave it storming reviews. Compared with the brash sound of most price-comparable players at the time, the Rotel was warm and smooth, with a sweet treble and fair detail. Ah, that was when BitStream technology meant sweet and smooth and multibit meant exciting but potentially ragged.

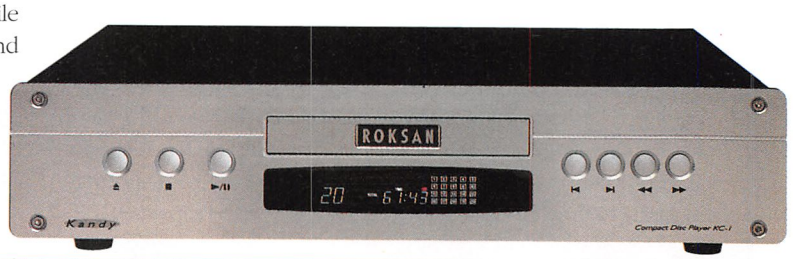
And you want to go back to a nasty old multibit Naim? Smart move – by the standards of new CD players the Rotel is a bit safe. The Naim will give your system a kick up the knickers, and while its sound brims with vitality and excitement, it's all nicely balanced and kept under firm control. If you can find a nice one, for sensible money, you won't go far wrong.

Other contenders? Players like the Roksan Kandy KC-1, NAD C541, Marantz CD6000KI and Arcam CD72 should get a listen, while a peep at the secondhand shelves might find older models from the likes of Audiolab and Cyrus. Try those, but we think you'll come back to the Naim because there's superb system synergy between the company's electronics, and the whole is almost always greater than the sum of the parts.

We'd suggest that you get used to the improvement the CD player brings and then consider a speaker change, rather than rushing into changing both at once and maybe confusing yourself.



We suggest Dave lends an ear to the NAD C541, although he may still prefer the second-hand Naim player's synergy with his Naim amp



The powerful-sounding Roksan Kandy KC-1 is well worth a listen, offering one of the fullest sounds you can get for the price

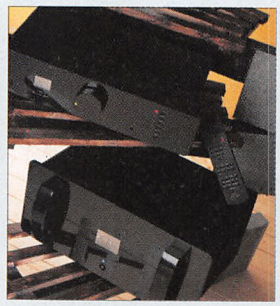
3 WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR HI-FI SYSTEM: AMPLIFIER

AMPLIFICATION
Some amplifiers offer A/B speaker switching so you can run a second pair of speakers into another room. Also look out for a headphone socket if you do a lot of late night listening.

INPUTS
Normal inputs are 'line-level', which work for a CD player, tape deck, tuner, VCR – in fact, pretty much anything except a record player (see 'phono inputs'). A tape loop is two pairs of terminals for a tape deck – one pair for playback, the other for recording.

PHONO INPUTS
Inputs for a turntable. Because record players produce a lower output level than CD players etc, they need a 'phono stage' of extra amplification to get them to 'line-in' level. You can add a phono amplifier to an amp without a phono stage.

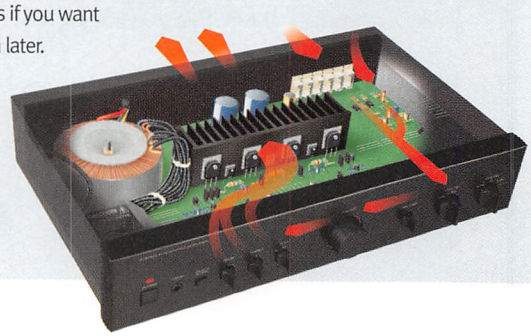
POWER
More power should give better control and quality, not just extra volume. Many apparently 'low power' amps are more capable than they appear (and vice versa). To compare amps, make sure the Wattage figure is quoted as RMS (Root Mean Square), which is a more accurate measurement of power.



TONE CONTROLS
Anything that gets in the way of the signal path, like tone controls, degrades the sound. But if you want them, look for 'bypassable' tone controls or a 'source direct' button – this means you can switch them out of circuit for better sound.

PREOUT SOCKETS
Volume-controlled phono outputs – handy for adding power amplifiers if you want to upgrade your system later.

SPEAKER SOCKETS
Look for good-quality binding posts, not the cheaper springclips.



Dolby Digital package sought for a new DVD experience

SOURCE PIONEER DV-737 DVD PLAYER
POWER YAMAHA DSP-A2070 AMPLIFIER
SPEAKERS MISSION SPEAKERS
PROBLEM I'M GOING TO UPGRADE AND AM CONFUSED AS TO WHAT IS OUT THERE. CURRENTLY I HAVE A PIONEER 737 DVD PLAYER (CHIPPED), AN OLD YAMAHA DSP A2070 AMPLIFIER, AND FIVE MISSION SPEAKERS. I WANT TO EXPERIENCE DOLBY 6.1 BUT DON'T WANT AN AV RECEIVER AS I HAVE A DENON TUNER SO I'M AFTER AN AMPLIFIER AND SPEAKERS. I WAS LOOKING AT THE DENON AVR-3802 BUT IT HAS A TUNER, OR THE YAMAHA DSP-AX1 COUPLED WITH SOME NEWER MISSION SPEAKERS (I DON'T WANT A SUB/SAT PACKAGE BECAUSE I'D LIKE SOME FLOORSTANDERS TO LISTEN TO DANCE MUSIC.) I KNOW I MUST LISTEN MYSELF BEFORE I BUY BUT I'VE BEEN OUT OF THE LOOP FOR A WHILE AND NEED SOME HELP. THANKS IN ADVANCE.
Mick VIA E-MAIL

The Mission 78s would do nicely

WE SAY There are more than a few integrated amplifiers that offer Dolby Digital Surround EX compatibility (Dolby 6.1 doesn't exist, by the way), but none can match the Denon AVR-3802. Maybe you don't want to hear that, given that you have a tuner, but it's the simple truth: in performance, especially with the latest surround formats, the Denon is unparalleled, and certainly eclipses most rivals up to £1500 for ability. In fact, even the mighty Yamaha DSP-AX1, an outstanding design in its day, is starting to look a little dated by the impact of the new Denon. As an example, the AX1 cannot handle Pro-Logic II, DTS-ES Discrete 6.1 or DTS Neo:6; the Denon does 'em all, and for a not inconsiderable £1000 less. Time to ponder trading your tuner in, perhaps?

As for speakers, if you want Mission, we'd recommend the 78-series package as the ideal partner for the AVR-3802. You could put together a system of 782 front speakers, 78C centre and 78DS rears for £1350; add an active subwoofer (something like a REL Q-150E, at £500) for the best results, and there you go.

Denon's AVR-3802 is unparalleled

4 LOUDSPEAKERS

LOUDSPEAKERS

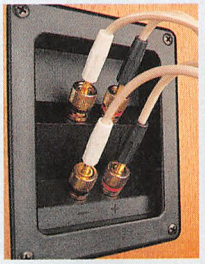
You have a huge choice when it comes to loudspeakers, so you need to be ruthless in your shortlisting! First decide on size – do you want small 'bookshelf' speakers or big floorstanders? Then read our reviews of the speakers in your price range to sort out the most likely candidates.

SIZE

Huge speakers in a small room sound awful, while small budget speakers in a big room struggle to fill the space. A small room can be considered anything around 4x4m or under.

MATCH YOUR AMP

Most affordable hi-fi separates will be happy working together – it's the tonal balance you need to get right. There are a few basic rules for amps and speakers. First, look at the speakers' power handling. This is quoted as a range – eg 20-100W – and make sure your amp's power rating fits in that range. Our listings show the upper figure in that range. You can also look at sensitivity: speakers with a high sensitivity are, in general, easier for an amplifier to drive than those with a low one.



Twin sets of binding posts on the back of a speaker allow you to biwire by running one set of cable from the amp to the tweeter, and another set to the mid/bass driver

SPEAKER TERMINALS

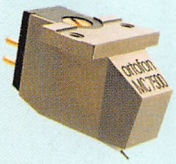
Avoid springclips – you can't use good thick speaker cable – and look for solid binding posts. Twin sets of sockets mean you can get into biwiring or biamping more easily, which can significantly boost the performance of some speakers.

TWO CONES OR MORE?

It's difficult for a single cone to reproduce both treble and bass signals well, so most speakers have a separate tweeter and woofer. Some have a midrange cone, too, and there are even speakers with a driver on top.

Ortofon

Pro-Ject



The year is 2001, the age of .com, poor service and fast turnover.

At Henley Designs we feel that things should be done differently. Customers should be treated with respect by staff who not only care, but who possess a knowledge and interest in the products they sell.

Our aim is to have a nationwide team of elite dealers who are able to offer advice, demonstrate and set up Pro-ject and Ortofon equipment. As a customer you should feel valued and comfortable during your purchase. As an owner, the value should continue through your pleasure in the music and its reproduction.

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Portuguese dilemma: go for the Classik T or keep the separates

SOURCES Marantz CD63 CD player
Sansui SR-212 turntable
Sony ST-S370 tuner
Philips CDR-770 CD recorder
POWER NAD C320 amp with PP1 phono stage
SPEAKERS Acoustic Energy AE109
ACCESSORIES Audioquest Topaz interconnects
Biwire speaker cable

PROBLEM I've been told that a Linn Classik T would sound better than my current set-up. Do you think this is true, or on the other hand would I be better off maintaining the separates and upgrading just one or two components, perhaps starting with the CD player and then the amp? If so, which models would you recommend I listen to?

I am assuming that the speakers will handle a few upgrades and would be prepared to spend around £300, although the budget could eventually stretch further.

Finally, I hope the weather is not too bad over there...

Francisco Águas Lisbon, Portugal

WE SAY We'd prefer your weather most of the year! Anyway, whoever suggested the Classik T has a point, but it's aimed at listeners wanting a compact, cost-effective and listenable system to be bought, installed and operated easily. We don't think it will prove the solution for you, even though it would replace your CD player, amplifier and tuner with one box. We reckon your alternative plan of upgrading based on what you have will be the more sensible route, but we'd suggest you start with the amplifier, not the CD player.

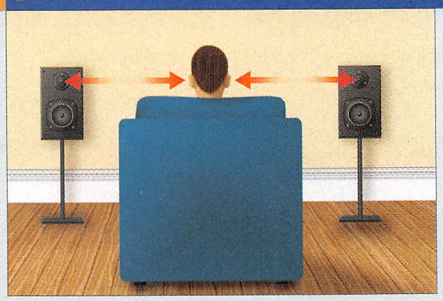
Your AE109s are responsive to the use of amplifiers with greater grip and power – they're not hard to drive, but in our experience tend to get better when used with amplifiers able to deliver a healthy dose of current while still having power in reserve for the dynamics of music. The NAD C320 is, by the standards of its class, good in this respect, but move up to the Award-winning C340 and you'll notice what the extra power, plus a year or two of extra development by the NAD engineers, can bring to the equation.

As an alternative, you might consider buying the C270 power amp instead, and use this to drive the bass of your speakers while the C320 handles the treble. The variable inputs on the power amp will even allow you to tweak the balance of your system a little.

As for CD players, the obvious candidate would have to be the NAD C541, which has a sound combining smoothness and sweetness in the midband with powerful bass and crisp clarity in the treble. It'll work well with either of your amplifier options, and the combination will drive the AE109s very, very well. So get down to your local NAD dealer and have a listen.

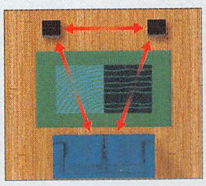
Francisco is lucky that he already has Acoustic Energy AE109s, which like an amp with grip and power – we'd try the NAD C340

5 Where to position your speakers (hi-fi)



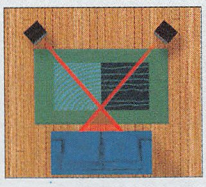
The right height

When you're sitting in your favourite listening position, the tweeters – the little treble drive units – should be at about the same height as your ears. With floorstanders you don't have much control over this – other than changing your furniture! With standmounters, however, you can get a stand that brings the speakers up to the right height. You'll probably find you get a much clearer image and a much sharper tone this way. There are no hard and fast rules, though – experimenting is the secret, so don't be afraid to move your speakers around.



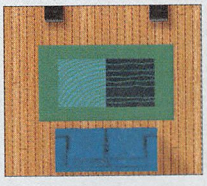
You and your speakers

Imagine a triangle with you at the apex. If the distance from your listening position to the speakers is less than the distance between the speakers themselves, then the soundstage will have a hole in the middle.



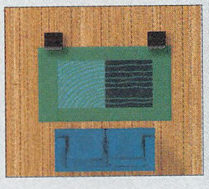
Toeing-in loudspeakers

By angling your speakers towards the listening position, you can often improve the stereo image. Imagine lines drawn out from the speakers, and angle them so they cross a few feet in front of your listening spot.



Rear and side walls

Some speakers give their best response when close to a solid rear wall, which acts as a sounding-board and boosts bass. Other speakers are designed to be placed in free space. Avoid placing any speaker in a corner if you can.



Free space

Floorstanders tend to sound best used in free space – well away from the rear wall. Put them too close and they'll sound horribly boomy. Try placing them at different distances from the wall until you get the best sound.

CD player upgrade needed to end the dull, boxed-in sound

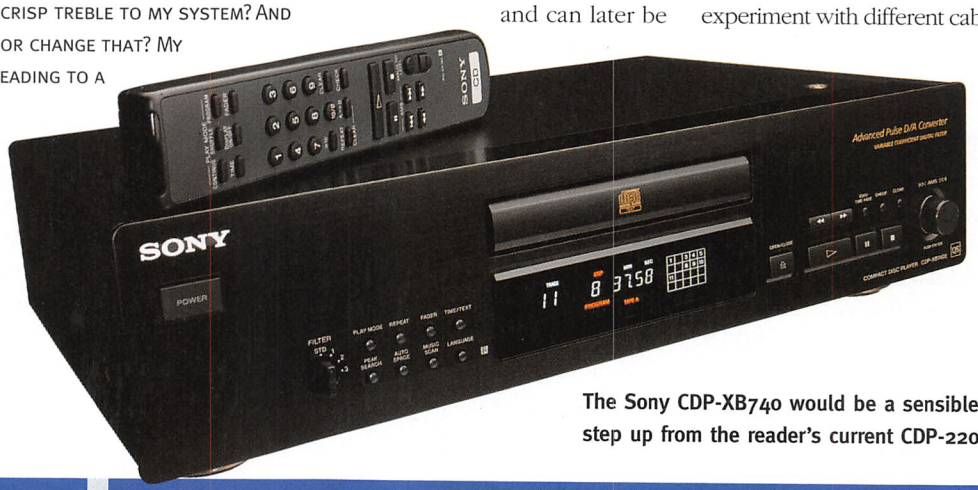
SOURCE SONY CDP-220 CD PLAYER
POWER MARANTZ PM6010 OSE AMP
SPEAKERS MISSION 702ES
CABLES QED SILVER ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER CABLES AND QUNEX 1 INTERCONNECTS

PROBLEM THIS YEAR I'VE BOUGHT THE MARANTZ AMP, THE MISSION SPEAKERS AND THE INTERCONNECT AND SPEAKER CABLES, BUT SINCE I'M STILL USING THE SONY PLAYER I'VE HAD FOR A WHILE. I ALSO HAVE THE TV SOUND CONNECTED TO THE AUX INPUT OF THE AMP USING A SCART/RCA CABLE. I DON'T THINK I'M GETTING THE BEST SOUND FROM MY AMP WHEN I PLAY CDS. THE SOUND TENDS TO BE DULL AND BOXED IN, LACKING THE OPENNESS AND CLARITY I'D LIKE. I TRIED AN INTERCONNECT FROM THE CHORD COMPANY AND THE SOUND GAINED MORE DEFINITION IN THE BASS AND WAS A BIT MORE OPEN, BUT THE PROBLEM REMAINED. WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST AS A CD PLAYER THAT WOULD GIVE A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN SOUND, GIVING MORE BASS DEFINITION, CLEAR MIDRANGE AND CRISP TREBLE TO MY SYSTEM? AND SHOULD I KEEP THE QED INTERCONNECT OR CHANGE THAT? MY ROOM IS 5X4M (BUT ONE SIDE IS OPEN LEADING TO A SIMILARLY-SIZED DINING ROOM).
J Costa THE AZORES

WE SAY You're right that the CD player is holding the system back: Sony makes some very good budget CD players, but the CDP-220 isn't one of them, not being in the same class as the likes of the CDP-XE570, CDP-XB740 or even the slightly older CDP-XB930. Any of these would make a sensible step up from the player you have, but the most obvious match would be the player designed to be used alongside the amp you have, namely the CD6000 OSE. Together these two will certainly deliver the kind of openness you require – just be prepared for your system to sound very different indeed when the player is installed.

Others which it might do you well to consider would include the Award winning Arcam DiVA CD72, the NAD 541 and even the old Arcam Alpha 7SE, which is available at bargain prices now, and can later be upgraded right up to Alpha 9 specification via interchangeable DAC modules.

The other thing you've clearly discovered is that cables do make a difference: Chord Company cables are know for their openness and "speed", and this is what you heard when you tried the cable in your system. It also showed up even more clearly the limitations of your player. We'd suggest you stick with your current interconnects, which are very good, and change the CD player first. Then, once you're familiar with the sound of the new player in your system, you can experiment with different cables.



The Sony CDP-XB740 would be a sensible step up from the reader's current CDP-220

6 WHAT TO PUT IT ON

SPEAKER STANDS

Ensure your 'bookshelf' or standmounting speakers sound their very best by investing in a pair of sturdy speaker stands. These work by keeping the speakers static, so all the energy of the drivers is used to shift air, not move the cabinets. There are models to suit all pockets, from as little as £30.

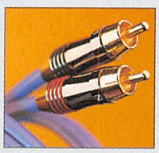
ISOLATION PLATFORMS Used beneath CD players, amps and record players, isolation platforms will shield kit from external vibrations. Squash balls, cut in half and placed under your equipment, are a cost-effective alternative.

EQUIPMENT SUPPORTS

Placing your kit on a hi-fi rack will bring improvements in soundstaging, bass extension and treble clarity. They come in all shapes and sizes and cost from £50.

7 INTERCONNECTS EXPLAINED

To avoid getting in a tangle over cables, follow our simple guide below. The basic rule is to spend about 10 per cent of the value of your system on cables and interconnects.

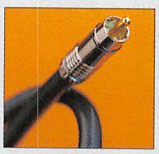


Phono (RCA)

Phono leads are the normal connection used between a source (CD player/cassette deck/tuner) and an amp. Free wires with red and white plugs are often supplied with a player, but it pays to buy better interconnects to improve the sound.

Optical

There are two types of digital cable for connecting a digital source such as a CD player to a MiniDisc or CD-R recorder, or a DVD player to an AV amp. Some recorders only accept the optical type, which has a small Toslink socket on the end, shown above.



Coaxial

The second type of digital connection is the coaxial (electrical) type, which is our preferred option. Not all CD or MiniDisc players have coaxial sockets, so check their back panels first. You can buy an optical-to-digital converter from Digimate (0118 984 4545).

S-Video

Not all DVD players have Scart connections for hooking up to a TV. S-Video link is the alternative. S-Video, which splits the signal into chrominance (colour) and luminance (brightness), is better than composite video, but Scart is still the best method.

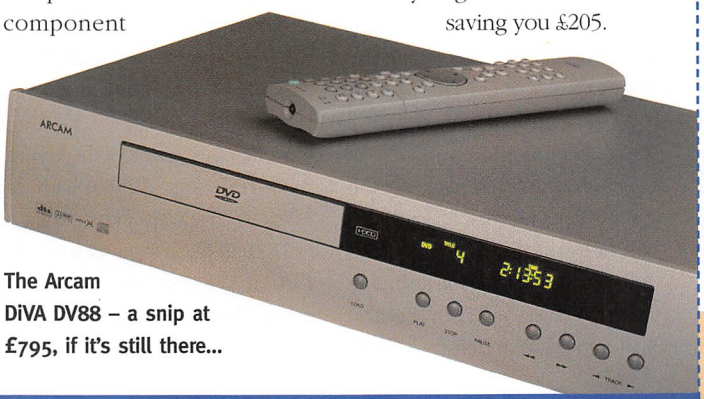
Don't deliberate or delay: dive for the DiVA DVD player

SYSTEM NOT SPECIFIED

PROBLEM A LOCAL DEALER IS SELLING ARCAM DIVA DV88 DVD PLAYERS, BRAND NEW, FOR £795, WHICH STILL SEEMS TO BE OVERPRICED. I LIKE ARCAM EQUIPMENT, BUT NOT THAT MUCH, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE ARE EQUALLY AS GOOD ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE AT HALF THE COST.

Bryan Daniels VIA THE INTERNET

WE SAY We're mystified as to your problem. Get in the car, go straight to the dealer as fast as is legal, and get yourself a DV88 straight away. Yes, you can get DVD players for half the cost or less, but none can rival the DV88. It plays CDs as well, offers full compatibility with HDCD discs and MP3 and has awesome picture potential thanks to component video sockets and RGB Scart. It can even be upgraded to offer progressive scan, should you need it. Yes, the likes of the Denon DVD-2800 and Pioneer DV-737 are excellent at their price, but both are soundly beaten for completeness by the outstanding Arcam. Like we said, just buy one. And remember to thank your friendly neighbourhood dealer for saving you £205.



The Arcam DiVA DV88 – a snip at £795, if it's still there...

DIN
German DIN standard multi-pin connectors (three to eight pins) are usually used for connecting pre and power amps; they're rarely found elsewhere these days. Naim uses them for all connectors on its components, but the company is unusual in this regard.

Scart
Scart cables, which carry signals from an AV source to your TV, vary from the basic leads supplied free with a TV, VCR or DVD, to better aftermarket (branded) versions that improve sound and picture quality. Most DVD players have RGB Scart connections for best picture quality.

XLR
Three-pin type which lock-on to the socket. Used for balanced connections.

BNC Push and twist connector which is normally used for digital connections.

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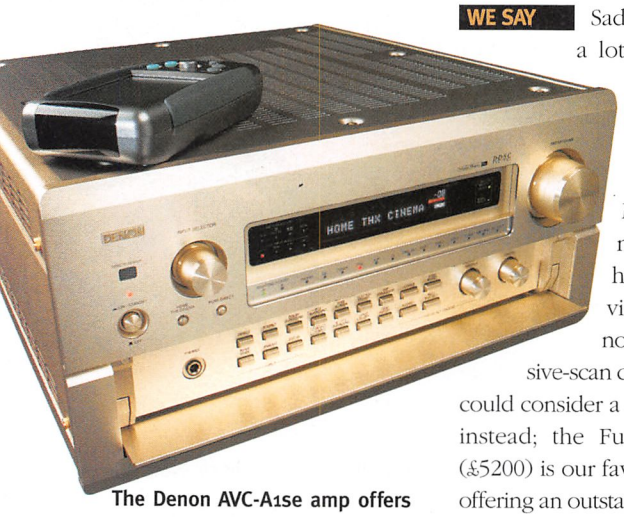
Top-end telly wanted for progressive pleasure

SYSTEM 29in Philips Pro-Logic TV (29828) with improved surround speakers front and rear (Mission 70), Pioneer DV-737

PROBLEM I want to get into a big-screen widescreen image, having owned my old Pro-Logic TV for some five years now, and especially since I purchased the Pioneer DVD player (it was going cheap!). I'm especially interested in accessing the progressive scan video capability of the player, which I've seen on demo in a dealer's. What sort of TV set would you recommend? I've got a fairly flexible budget up to around £6000, and I'm not bothered about the set's audio capability – I intend to add a separates surround system later (for which any recommendations you could give would also be very welcome).

Mike Hall, via e-mail



The Denon AVC-A1se amp offers superlative surround sound

WE SAY Sadly, there's not a lot of option for you in the conventional TV set world at the moment, Mike; Toshiba makes sets that have component video inputs, but none are progressive-scan compatible. You could consider a plasma display instead; the Fujitsu PDS4229 (£5200) is our favourite plasma, offering an outstandingly colourful, three-dimensional image for the price. It's fully compatible with progressive scan imagery, but like most plasmas, has no internal tuner, so you must ensure that you have access to something like a Sky DigiBox or ITV Digital tuner for conventional TV viewing. We'd also recommend that you consider purchasing a decent component video cable, since this will help the Pioneer player to deliver the best possible image into the Fujitsu; give Nordost and Audioquest an audition.

The Fujitsu plasma is five grand, but it's worth every penny

For audio, with your system and budget, the sky's pretty much the limit; the Pioneer is perfectly capable of supporting audio systems of up to £10,000. Coming back to earth, consider the Denon AVC-A1SE amp (£2500) with the M&K 750THX speaker package (£2700). If that's too much, try the Denon AVR-3802 receiver (£850) with M&K's K-series speaker package (£1895).

8 Separates vs all-in-ones

Mixing and matching separate components will give you better sound than an all-in-one system. This way you get to choose the best CD player, amp and speakers; if you buy a mini or micro, you can't mix and match components or upgrade them later. Some manufacturers now make mini separates – smaller boxes styled to match each other, which offer good sound and great looks.

IS IT WORTH BUYING A MINI OR MICRO SYSTEM?

Few minis and micros can rival separates for sound, but they are compact, easy to set up and use. Most have a built-in CD player, tape and/or MiniDisc deck and radio. They're ideal for smaller rooms like a kitchen, bedroom or study.

THE MINI SYSTEM

The mini system was developed as a compact all-in-one system and is wide enough to house a twin tape deck. A midi system usually includes a turntable.

THE MICRO SYSTEM

Heralding the move towards miniaturisation, the micro uses the CD as its main source and is normally the width of a CD jewel case.

9 What to record on

MiniDisc is ideal for editing, as you can easily splice tracks together, remove them or alter the running order, but CD-R sounds better.

CASSETTE

Pros: cheap; plenty of prerecorded tapes available; most cars have cassette players; small and light, so ideal for portable use.

Cons: can suffer from background hiss; tape tends to wear out with use; can't edit recordings.

MINIDISC

Pros: digital (no hiss); easy to edit; light and robust; sound won't deteriorate.

Cons: can sound compressed; blank discs more expensive than cassette.

MP3

Pros: plenty of music available on the internet. **Cons:** heavy use of compression means sound quality can be impaired.

CD-RECORDABLE

Pros: recordings virtually identical to the original.

Cons: rewritable discs expensive (£12 each); write-once discs cheaper (£1.50) but mistakes are permanent; CD-RW discs won't play in most older CD players.

Yamaha needed to get the best from a mystery DVD player

SOURCE DVD PLAYER (MODEL UNSPECIFIED)
POWER NAD C320 AMPLIFIER
SPEAKERS B&W DM601 S2 SPEAKERS
PROBLEM I AM ONLY A BEGINNER IN THIS GAME AND JUST OVER A YEAR AGO BROUGHT A BUDGET HI-FI SYSTEM WHICH INCLUDES A NAD C320 AMP AND A SOME B&W DM601 S2 SPEAKERS. I HAVE RECENTLY BROUGHT A 5.1 COMPATIBLE DVD PLAYER AND HAVE PUT THIS THROUGH THE AMP TO THE SPEAKERS, WHICH IS NICE.

THE PROBLEM I HAVE IS THAT I WANT TO USE THE 5.1 AND GET SOME SURROUND SOUND SET-UP. CAN I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT I ALREADY HAVE, AND HOW WILL ALL THIS BE SET UP? OR DO I NEED TO BUY ANOTHER AMP AND A FULL SET OF SPEAKERS? I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THIS ON A BUDGET, AND I JUST CANNOT SEEM TO FIND THE ANSWERS I NEED. CAN YOU HELP?

David Stevens LEOMINSTER

WE SAY Relax, you don't have to start again, or throw anything away. We wish we knew what make and model of DVD player you own – it's much easier to give advice when we have the full story, David! – but in fact, it makes no difference in this instance to our recommendation.

The first step is a relatively straightforward one: buy a Yamaha DSP-E800 processor (£300). This adds easily to your NAD amplifier; all you need is a pair of phono interconnects, which will run from the Yamaha's main output sockets (on its rear) to a spare input on the NAD (usually a tape input). This processor contains internal decoding for both Dolby Digital 5.1 and DTS 5.1 surround audio, so all you then need is a digital interconnect from your player (coaxial or optical, preferably coaxial if the player lets you) and bingo! Instant digital surround audio. You need not bother about the decoding built into your DVD player; it will not match the performance on offer from the Yamaha processor, which sounds fantastically good for the price you pay.

After that, it's just a matter of speakers and cable. B&W makes a suitable matching centre speaker for DM 601 S2s, called the CC6 S2 (£200), so you'll need one of those to give dialogue effects. It simply connects into the Yamaha's rear panel using speaker cable. For surround speakers, you have two choices; either go for another pair of B&W DM601s, or opt for a larger pair of front speakers – say, DM603 S2s (£500) – and then place your existing 601 S2s on the surround channels. This will give you more bass, power and drive, both in stereo and surround mode, but obviously, it costs more. It's up to you.

Yamaha's DSP-E800 should be David's first buy

The B&W DM603 S2s would make a good front pair

10 HOME CINEMA: THE EASY WAY

ONE-BOX SOLUTIONS

Making your first foray into home cinema can be a daunting experience. If – even with our tests and buyers' guide to help you choose equipment and our step-by-step guide to setting up – you still feel it's too complicated, there's an even easier way.

All-in-one 'home cinema in a box' systems give you a DVD player, amplifier, surround-sound speakers and all the leads you'll need to connect them all up, as well as to your TV. The best all-in-one systems simplify this set-up process by using colour-coded plugs and sockets, aided by clearly explained manuals.

There are other advantages to an all-in-one system too. For example, many of the central DVD player units also include radio tuners, so – along with their CD-playing capabilities – this means that you've got yourself a basic hi-fi set-up as well.

In cosmetic terms, all-in-ones are typically very design-orientated: you get a shiny pile of co-ordinated kit to sprinkle around your living room, rather than a mix-and-match set of different colours and makes.

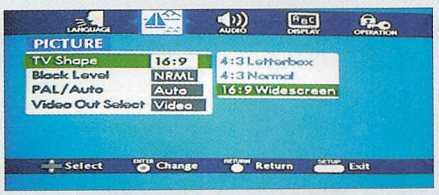
11 HOW TO SET UP YOUR DVD PLAYER

CONNECTING

A single Scart lead carries pictures and sound from your DVD player to your TV set. Hook them up together this way.

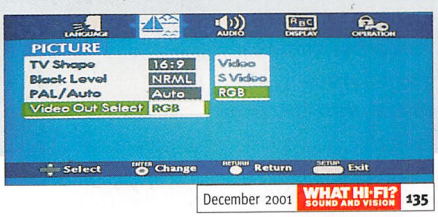
DO YOU HAVE A WIDESCREEN TV?

You need to tell your DVD player that you're using a widescreen TV. Select the AV channel on the telly, and then press the 'set-up' button on the DVD player's remote. Now select the 'widescreen' mode from the menu. Yes, it's that easy.



SETTING UP FOR RGB AND WHY

The best picture comes via the RGB (red, green, blue) signal via the Scart cable that you've just connected. Use the on-screen menus to do this: press the 'set-up' button and select 'RGB'.



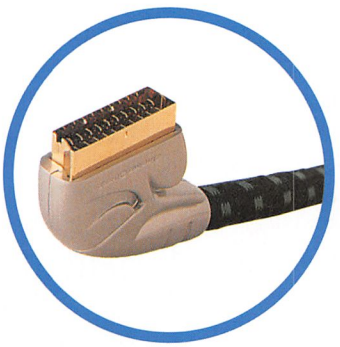
So which lead gives the better pictures: S-Video or Scart?

SOURCES PIONEER DV-444 DVD PLAYER, MARANTZ CD63 CD PLAYER, SONY MDS JE510 MINIDISC RECORDER, TOSHIBA 28IN TV
POWER MARANTZ SR4200 RECEIVER
SPEAKERS MISSION 702E 5 SPEAKER PACKAGE
CONNECTIONS IXOS S-VIDEO AND COAXIAL DIGITAL CABLES
PROBLEM YOUR FEBRUARY 2001 ISSUE STATED THAT S-VIDEO GIVES A BETTER PICTURE THAN A SCART CABLE. SO OFF I TROTTED TO THE HI-FI SHOP AND PARTED WITH £30 OF MY HARD-EARNED DOSH TO GET THE BEST CONNECTION FROM MY DVD TO TV – ONLY TO FIND THAT IN LATER ISSUES, FOR EXAMPLE OCTOBER, THAT YOU HAVE NOW RE-WORDED IT TO SAY THAT "S-VIDEO IS BETTER THAN COMPOSITE VIDEO, BUT SCART IS STILL THE BEST METHOD". COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME THE BEST METHOD? OH AND DON'T TRY TO CONVINCE ME THAT ALTHOUGH YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND AND DECIDED SCART IS NOW BETTER, THAT MY S-VIDEO LEAD IS STILL AS GOOD.

Dean Beddall BEDFORD, BEDS

WE SAY Not a change of heart, Dean, but a change of technology. There are still debates over the pros and cons of S-Video and Scart cables, but our change of opinion has come about due to the increased prevalence of RGB output on DVD players, which in our opinion does give a better picture when used through a Scart cable wired correctly – ie fully, to take advantage of this output – and a suitable TV. Some Scart cables aren't fully wired with all the pins connected at each end, and so can't transmit an RGB signal, and neither can all older TV sets accept an RGB input, even though this has been part of the 21-pin Scart specification right from its inception. The cables sold by the specialist companies in the AV field should have all the pins wired – but it's worth checking – while the budget models you'll find in general electrical stores and supermarkets may have only the minimum number of pins connected to give sound and vision.

That said, the improvements are relatively marginal, though worth having if there's the choice. Despite your protestations we *are* going to tell you that your S-Video cable is much better than the composite alternative – it sends the video signal as two components, roughly described as brightness and colour, whereas a composite cable carries the whole thing in one hit. An RGB Scart – and maybe we should have made it clearer that we're talking about RGB-able cables, and not all Scarts – further splits the colour into red, green and blue (hence the name), and thus can deliver better quality. We'd suggest you try to borrow a fully-wired Scart from a dealer or a friend, and try it – if it gives you a worthwhile gain it's worth switching, but if you really can't see the difference stick with what you have.



The Audioquest Scart Type T4 gives full sound and video

Don't go setting fire to those S-Video cables just yet

12 HOW TO SET UP YOUR HOME CINEMA SYSTEM

CONNECTING YOUR DVD PLAYER TO YOUR HI-FI

The next step up from a basic DVD+TV set-up is to hook in your hi-fi system to improve bass response and clarity. On this page we show you how to connect up such a mid-range system, while overleaf we explain how to set up a full surround-sound home cinema system, complete with Dolby Digital amplifier, subwoofer and satellite speakers.

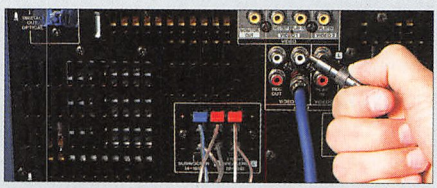
STEREO SOUND

In order to hear the best stereo sound from your DVD player, you need to tell it that you want to hear a 'downmixed' stereo sound. To do this, select the two-channel mode from the set-up.

PHONO OUTPUTS

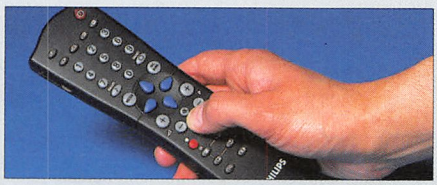
Once you've selected the two-channel mode, you need to connect the phono audio outputs from the back of the DVD player (seen here) to your hi-fi. These come in stereo pairs: one left, the other right.

PHONO INPUTS



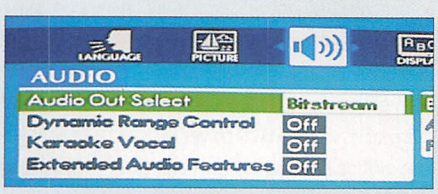
Connect the other ends of the cables to the inputs on your hi-fi (shown right). Wire the left and right channels up correctly!

MUTE



The Scart socket will still carry audio signals into your TV, which will still produce sound. This isn't ideal, as the TV's sound will be different from that of the hi-fi system. Mute the TV via its remote.

DIGITAL SURROUND



To hear digital surround sound, you need to use the on-screen menus to tell your DVD player to send a digital bitstream (which conveys Dolby Digital and DTS audio) from the digital output.

Would a different DVD player make a significant difference?

SOURCES SONY DVP-S735D DVD PLAYER, SONY KP-51DS1 51IN REAR PROJECTION TV

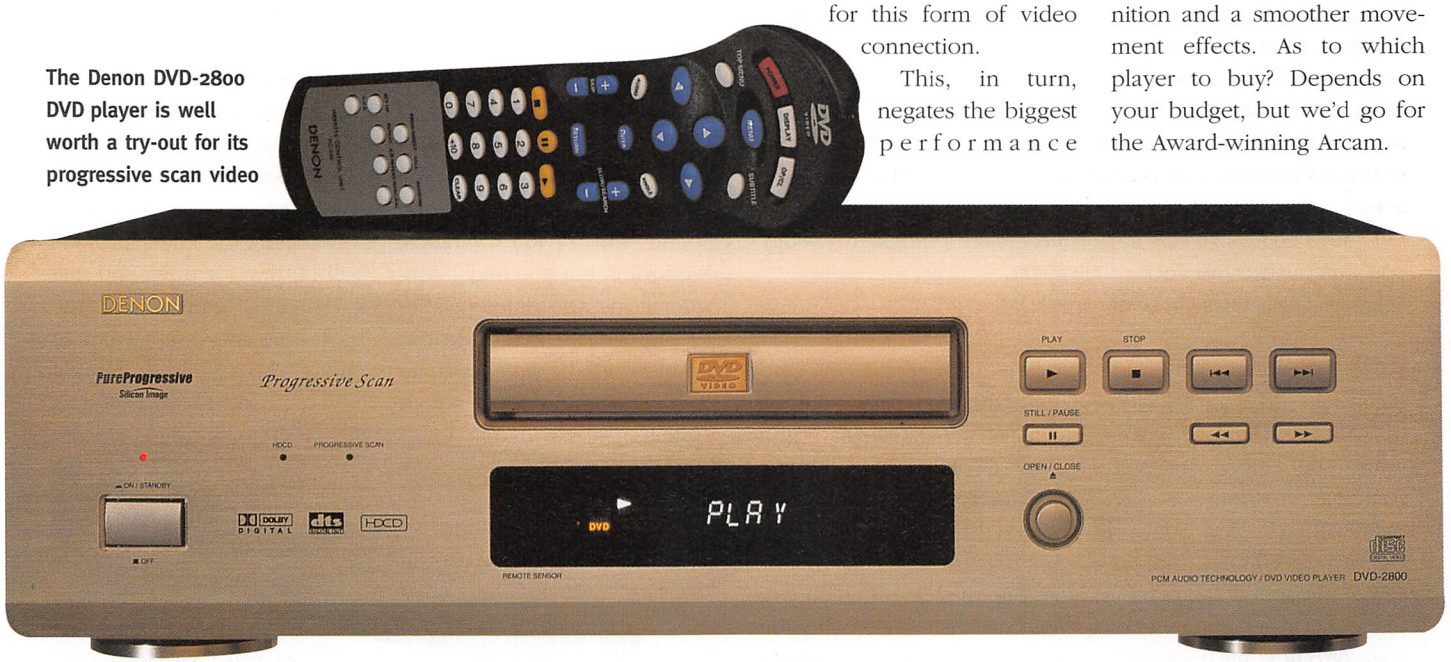
POWER DENON AVC-A1SE AMPLIFIER

PROBLEM WE WERE WONDERING IF IT WAS WORTH OUR WHILE UPGRADING TO AN ARCAM DIVA DV88 OR MAYBE A TOSHIBA 900E DVD PLAYER. WOULD WE NOTICE MUCH DIFFERENCE?

Rosy Bertram

WE SAY We'd also urge you to look at the Denon DVD-2800 DVD player (£800). This, like the other two models you mention, can deliver progressive scan video (which makes a very big difference to picture performance) but this can only be accessed via the component video sockets, and sadly, your set doesn't allow for this form of video connection.

This, in turn, negates the biggest performance advantage of all three players. However, all still deliver better pictures than your Sony model, as well as sounding better with music use. The best results would come with using a dedicated RGB-only Scart cable (which omits audio signals in order to give better pictures). You should see richer blacks, stronger detail definition and a smoother movement effects. As to which player to buy? Depends on your budget, but we'd go for the Award-winning Arcam.



The Denon DVD-2800 DVD player is well worth a try-out for its progressive scan video

13 HOW TO SET UP YOUR HOME CINEMA SYSTEM

DIGITAL OUTPUT

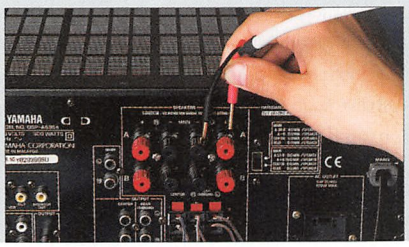
Connect a digital interconnect cable to the digital output of your DVD player. Be sure to use a proper digital cable; a normal phono interconnect won't do.

DIGITAL INPUT

Connect the other end of the digital cable into the digital input on your home-cinema amp. Make sure you use the socket marked for DVD, as this will be suitable for Dolby Digital and DTS.

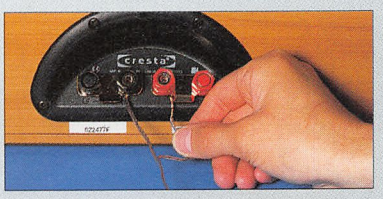
SPEAKERS

Now hook up the surround (rear) effects speakers to your home-cinema amp. Be sure to wire each speaker up to the correct terminal.



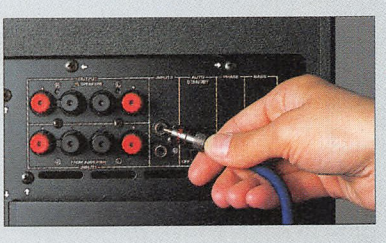
WIRING UP

It's easier to wire one speaker up at a time. Make sure that you wire the left socket to the left terminal, and the right to the right; this is called 'in phase' and ensures the best sound.



SUBWOOFER

The last speaker to wire in is the subwoofer, using another phono interconnect cable. Wire from the subwoofer output on your home-cinema amplifier, to the single input on the subwoofer.



THE FINAL STEP

Finally, press the Dolby Digital/DTS button on your home-cinema amp. This tells it to detect incoming digital signals and select the correct surround-sound mode.

Suspect amp is the culprit for restrained music performance

SOURCE MARANTZ CD6000 CD PLAYER
POWER YAMAHA AX-396 INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER
SPEAKERS ELTAX SYMPHONY 6.2
CONNECTIONS VAN DEN HUL STORM GOLD INTERCONNECTS, GALE XL160-2 SPEAKER CABLES
PROBLEM I AM PLEASED WITH THE BASS MY SYSTEM OFFERS AND FAIRLY PLEASED WITH THE DYNAMICS, BUT WHAT REALLY DISAPPOINTS ME IS THE LACK OF INSIGHT AND CLARITY IN THE MIDRANGE. THE SOUNDSTAGE ISN'T GREAT EITHER. GOOD RECENT RECORDINGS SOUND ACCEPTABLE BUT OLDER RECORDINGS SOUND PRETTY DULL. CLASSICAL MUSIC SOUNDS SOMEHOW PLAIN AND VOICES ARE OFTEN RESTRAINED. IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU COULD OFFER ME SOME ADVICE REGARDING AN UPGRADE. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD MORE DEFINITION AND REFINEMENT IN THE MIDRANGE WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE BASS WEIGHT. IDEALLY I WOULD PREFER TO UPGRADE ONLY ONE COMPONENT (SPEAKERS OR AMP) BUT I COULD UPGRADE BOTH IF NECESSARY. I LISTEN TO VARIOUS TYPES OF MUSIC, FROM ROCK TO CLASSICAL.

Sebastian Cumpatescu VIA EMAIL

WE SAY Some of the older recordings do sound lacklustre with their limited dynamic range, but there are some stunning remasters out there, particularly classical. Some old Decca recordings from the early '60s sound fabulous on CD – check out Britten's *Peter Grimes* to hear what we mean.

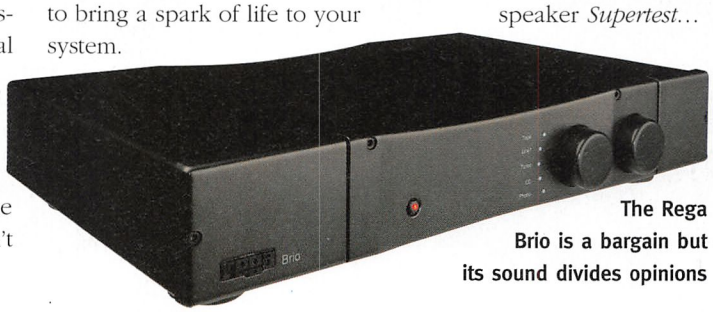
We reckon it's the amp that's holding back your system – the Yamaha "Natural Sound" philosophy ensures products are smooth, never sound harsh or aggressive, but to some ears can be soft and uninvolving. Certainly the informative CD6000 shouldn't be giving a sound like this.

The Creek 4330Mk2's smooth sound suits a wide range of music

Amps which won't break the bank include no-frills British models for about £300, including the Creek 4330Mk2, which has a smooth sound well suited to a wide range of music, but a much more lucid midband than the Yamaha can muster. The Rega Brio is superb for just under £300 – we gave it a Best Buy in the 2001 Awards – but its peppy sound can divide opinions. We love it, but you might consider it just too different after the Yamaha's softness. In our opinion, it'll be just the thing to bring a spark of life to your system.

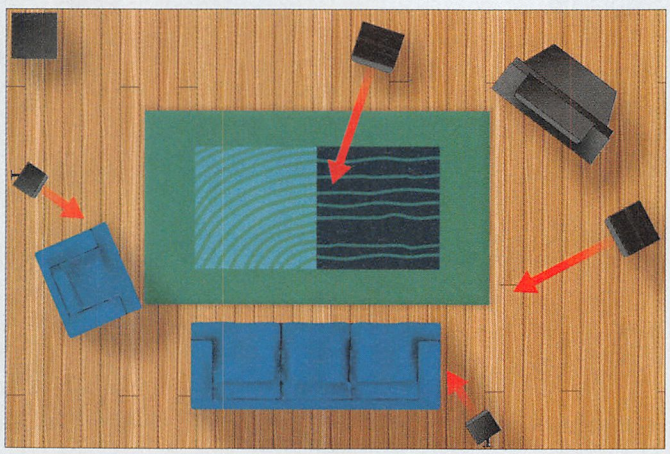
If you'd prefer a fully featured amplifier with remote control and the like – both the Creek and the Rega have pretty basic facilities – then try the £330 NAD C350 or, if that's a bit rich for you, the Marantz PM6010OSE, which will make a fine match with your player. The £300 Sony TA-FB940R is also a fine choice, and we've seen them at good discounts.

We think the Eltax speakers will be fine for now, and that a change of amp will do the trick. But you might want to check this month's budget speaker *Supertest*...



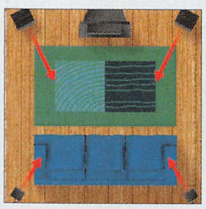
The Rega Brio is a bargain but its sound divides opinions

14 WHERE TO PUT YOUR HOME CINEMA SPEAKERS



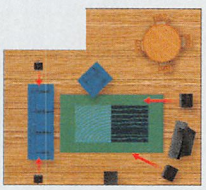
PUTTING THE TV IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM

It's a problem this, not only because corners reinforce bass response somewhat unpredictably, but because you can't keep your front speakers at the same distance from you as the centre speaker. The seating arrangement here gives you two choices for rear speakers – in the corner behind the chairs (but that'll give a very narrow and unrealistic surround field), or as shown here, which is better but makes the left-hand sofa seat the best place for sound. You'll have to fight for it.



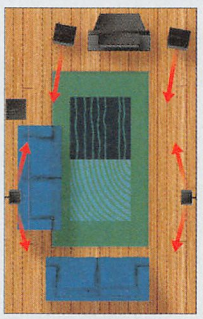
SQUARE ROOM

If the room is large, the set-up is quite straightforward, and you might want to add a subwoofer. Small square rooms are hard, because anything big will dominate the room and sound awful. Wall-mounted speakers will save space. Avoid too much power if you're using home cinema separates.



L-SHAPED ROOM

Any area not filled with kit will suck out much of your speakers' bass power. Put the TV at the corner of the L, facing down the longer of the two axis. Place your main stereo speakers close to it, or alternatively opt for a subwoofer/ satellite speaker system, as it can spread the bass without bad reflections.



LONG THIN ROOM

You'll have a hard time getting good surround effects. It may help you to choose an amp that lets you program in a long delay time for rear effects. Dipole rears could go on the side wall as shown, firing around the side seats or back to the rear ones.

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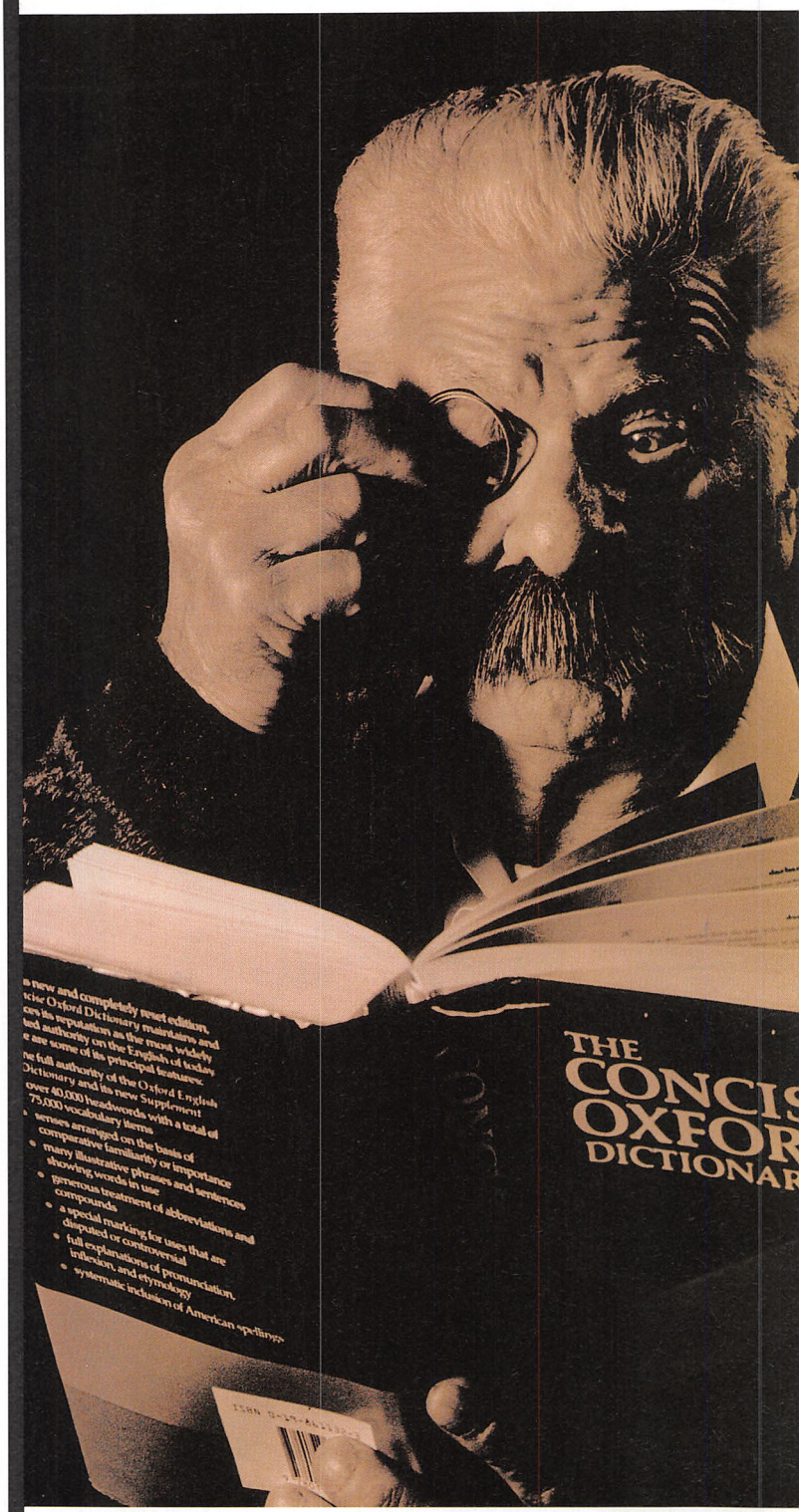


The knowledge

Want to take the tedium out of techno-speak? Allow our glossary of terms to lend a hand...

AAD
Seen on CD cases, meaning the music was recorded and mastered in analogue form, but stored digitally (on CD).

AC-3 See Dolby Digital.

ADD
Music recorded in analogue form (A), mastered or remastered digitally (D), and then stored digitally on CD.

AMPLIFIER
Boosts signals to drive speakers. Can be one

box (integrated) or have separate pre and power sections.

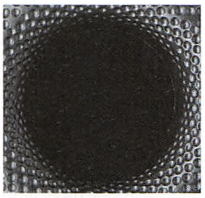
ANALOGUE
LPs/cassette tapes store audio in non-digital form directly related to the signal.

ANAMORPHIC
Anamorphically enhanced DVD discs have been coded to

offer improved picture quality on widescreen TV sets and banish most, if not all of, the letterbox effect, too.

BALANCED CONNECTIONS
Positive and negative wires are shielded (for better interference rejection) in balanced connections. Normal connections use the negative to shield the positive cable. Use a three-pin XLR type plug to connect from the amp – also used in the AES/EBU digital format.

BASS
Low frequencies, often hard to reproduce. A review that says bass is slow means it goes 'whoompa-whoompa' . The ideal is good bass extension allied to speed and rhythm.



Smaller speakers often come with ports to boost bass extension

BASS REFLEX
A speaker design using air-flow from a port in the cabinet to help bass reproduction.

BIAMPING
Each drive unit of a speaker is driven by a separate amp channel, so a pair of two-way speakers needs two stereo amps, and two runs of cable to each speaker. See biwiring.

BINDING POST
Speaker terminal having a threaded collar for gripping bare wires and sometimes a socket to take banana plugs as well.

BIT
A single piece of digital information, basically an 'on/off' signal. Digital-to-analogue converters turn strings of bits into audio signals.

BITSTREAM
One method of turning digital CD data into analogue signals. Bitstream digital-to-analogue converters process single bits of digital data much faster than multibit DACs, which work on chunks of digital data.

Biwirable speakers have separate terminals for the tweeter and woofer

BIWIRING
Some of the benefits of biamping but at lower cost. You need suitable speakers (with two sets of inputs and a split crossover), then send twin runs of cable from the amp (again if suitable) to each speaker.

BRIDGING
Increasing power by connecting a stereo power amp for use in mono, then adding a second bridged-stereo amp for the other

Binding posts allow good thick speaker cable to be used

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Home Entertainment MAGAZINE BEST BUY
Best buy Home Entertainment July 2001

BEST BUY HI-FI CHOICE magazine
Best buy Hifi Choice October 2001

HOME CINEMA BEST BUY
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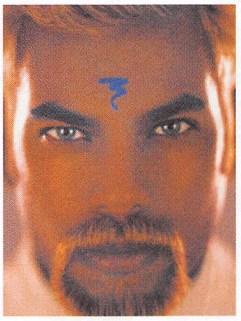

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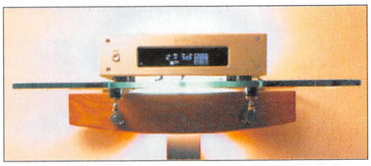

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Sound advice

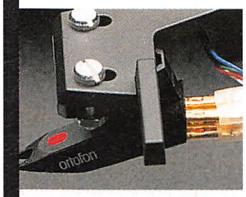
channel. Power typically triples, but the amps must be designed to be bridged.

CABLES

Copper is the most commonly used conductor with purity expressed as a number of 'nines'. So 'six nines' or '6N' purity might be 99.99997 per cent pure. Cables can have many strands (multi-strand) or one or more thick wires (solid core).

CARTRIDGE

The device which actually plays the record. It converts the

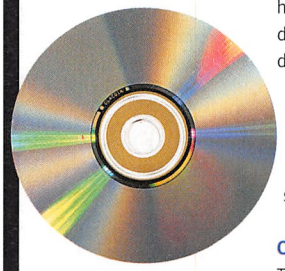


Cartridges come in two flavours: moving coil and moving magnetic

wobbles in the record's groove into electrical signals for your amp. See moving magnet and moving coil.

COMPACT DISC

Standard 12cm disc, which stores information digitally, read by



Compact disc stores music in digital form and is read by a laser

laser optical system. Originally designed to store music the CD is now used for many applications.

CD-R

CD-Recordable. Uses a special blank disc in a recording CD player. Once recorded it can't be erased, but plays in standard CD players when 'fixed up'. Comes in two flavours, professional and consumer, the latter being more expensive. Pro and consumer discs and machines are not interchangeable!

CD-RW

Rewritable discs that can be erased and recorded on again and again. Work on all CD-R recorders but not all conventional CD players or in-car units.

CD-ROM

Uses CD as a Read Only Memory for computers. Can store around 600MB on a single disc.

CD-TEXT

System which allows CD players to display text, such as track names or lyrics.

CLASS A

Amp in which positive and negative half cycles are amplified together. Runs hot, as the transistors in the power amp are on all the time, but has high sound quality.

CLASS B

Positive and negative halves of the signal dealt with by different parts of the circuit, the output devices switching continually. Amp runs cooler, though the sound is not as pure.

COLORATION

This is a shift away from the natural rendition of music. Coloration is undesirable – 'boomy' bass, a 'nasal' midband or a 'splashy' treble.

COMPRESSION

Used by radio stations to reduce level differences between loud and soft parts of music. Helps in-car sound, but can sound awful on a hi-fi tuner.

CROSSOVER

Circuit inside speakers which splits the incoming signal, sending the high frequencies to the tweeter and the low ones to the woofer.

DAB

Digital Audio Broadcasting: digital radio on both BBC and independent stations. Offers hiss-free sound.

DAC

Digital-to-analogue converter, turning on/off pulses into analogue sound. CD players have DACs built in. Separate DACs can upgrade a CD player or other digital player/recorder, or can be used with dedicated CD transports.

DAT

Digital Audio Tape. A digital recording system now used mainly professionally. Uses a revolving recording head similar to that used in a VCR.

DATA REDUCTION

Lowers the amount of data needed to store music. Sony's MiniDisc uses a system called ATRAC (Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding), removing signals its designers think you can't hear.

DDD

On CD cases – music recorded and mastered digitally and stored digitally on CD.

DECIBEL (dB)

Measures sound pressure. A change of 1dB is just about audible, while +10dB sounds like the level has been doubled.

DIGITAL

Way of storing data used by CD players, DAT, MiniDisc etc. The sound or picture is converted to a stream of digits – effectively 1s and 0s representing on/off pulses.

DIGITAL OUTPUT
Allows the digital signal to be recorded or processed by an off-board DAC. Electrical or optical (fibre optic) outputs allow this.

DISTORTION
Signals that are unwanted or signal changes added by the equipment itself.

DOLBY B, C + S
Noise-reduction systems to boost quiet signals when recording and reduce them on playback, cutting hiss.

DOLBY DIGITAL
A home cinema sound system from Dolby, using five discrete channels of digital sound plus a separate channel for a subwoofer. Formerly known as AC-3.

DOLBY HX PRO
Not noise reduction, but a way to record more high frequency info without distortion (often called 'increasing headroom').

DOLBY SURROUND
Encodes sound for rear effects channels into the stereo tracks. Needs to be replayed through a decoder to produce surround sound though.

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
Development of Dolby Digital 5.1 surround audio that includes a 'matrixed' centre-rear audio signal to provide additional surround envelopment. Requires a suitable decoder, with amplification, and either one or two additional centre rear speakers. See also, THX Surround EX

DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
Uses an extra centre speaker at the front, which locks dialogue to the screen, and mono rear channels for surround effects.

DOLBY 3 STEREO
In a home cinema amplifier this delivers surround channel information through the front left and right speakers, and centre channel sound through a third speaker.

DTS
Discrete 5.1 channel home cinema digital sound system – rival to Dolby Digital.

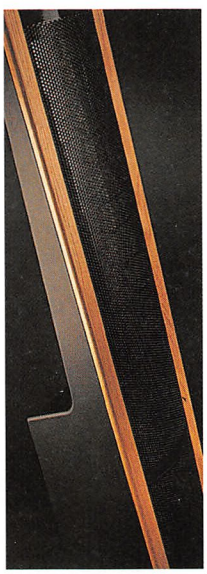
DTS ES MATRIX 6.1
Variation on the Dolby Digital Surround EX theme; similar results.

DTS ES DISCRETE 6.1
The only 'true' 6.1 system, with an entirely discrete digital channel providing centre-rear channel effects. Requires a dedicated decoder. Currently rare.

DUAL MONO
Some amps are designed to keep left and right signals separate throughout the amp – this helps avoid interference between the two channels.

DVD-AUDIO
New audio format which offers multichannel surround sound music and high quality 24-bit/96kHz stereo reproduction.

DVD-VIDEO
Video format on CD-sized optical disc – huge capacity for movies, with multiple languages, widescreen pictures and multichannel surround sound. Players will also play conventional CDs.



Electrostatic speakers produce sound via a thin light diaphragm

DVD-R
Pioneer has already developed working DVD-R recorders, but like CD-R these will only record once onto a blank disc and it can't be erased.

DVD+RW
What we really want is rewritable DVDs. Philips has a production DVD recorder that can record up to four hours of DVD-Video on a single-sided 4.7Gb disc in real time, at a variable transfer rate of 11-26Mb/s. More consumer players are expected on sale next year.

DYNAMIC RANGE
The range, in dB, between largest and smallest signals reproduced by hi-fi.

ELECTROSTATIC
Speakers that use the force of high voltages to push and pull a thin light diaphragm, which produces the sound.

FREQUENCY
High-pitched sounds have a high frequency, low-pitched ones a low frequency. Audible sounds range from 16Hz to20kHz.

HDCD
High Definition Compatible Digital – a coding system for CD which aims to get better sound. Needs a decoder to be heard.

HERTZ (HZ)
Unit of frequency. One Hz means a signal has one cycle per second.

precious metal

The Mezzo Soprano range is as rich as it's name suggests, combining the best of Apollo's technical expertise with exquisite good looks. There is a range of ten great colours to choose from, all engineered to give maximum performance and flexibility.

The spacers are assembled easily to form a rigid shelving system, with a choice of 4 different heights between shelves. The shelves themselves are made from grey tinted toughened safety glass or 12mm clear glass. Mini and midi versions are also available.

Mezzo comes supplied with optional carpet piercing spikes.

See and hear the difference a Mezzo Soprano can make to your hi-fi now.

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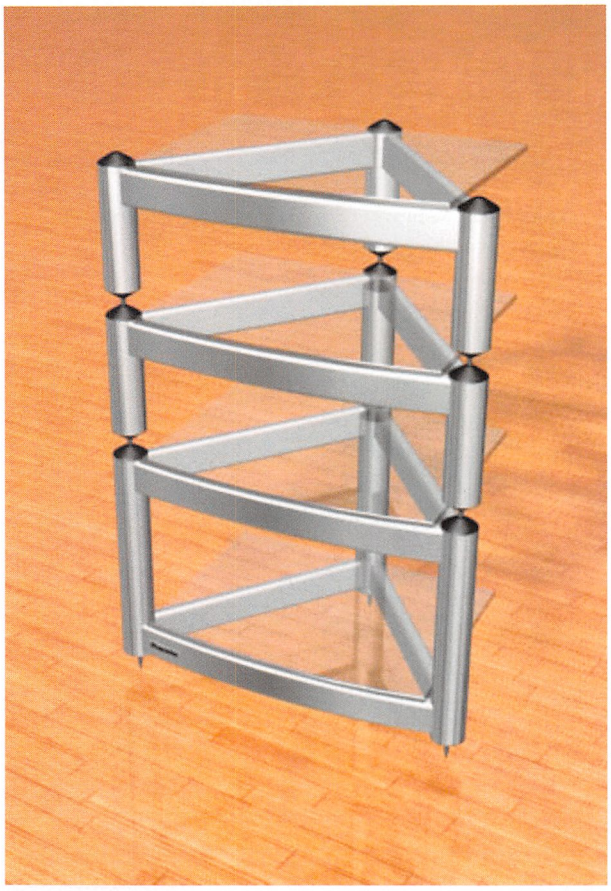
Atacama



Equinox Equipment Rack

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Sound advice

HORN LOADING
Improves a drive unit's efficiency and output, using a structure within the speaker shaped like a horn. Works like the trumpet on an old-fashioned gramophone.

IMPEDANCE
Electrical property. A low impedance draws a high current flow from the source, while a high impedance draws a little. Speakers with a low impedance are more difficult for an amplifier to drive.

LINE LEVEL
Describes inputs to amplifiers which don't need amplifying before the amp can use them.

MIDBAND
The frequency range where most of the instruments and voices are heard. Vital if singers, etc, are to sound natural.

MINIDISC
Sony's 64mm disc that can record up to 80 minutes of sound.

To download music from the internet, an MP3 player is a must

Looks like a mini computer disc but works optically, like CD, on prerecorded discs, or magneto-optically in the case of blank discs.

MONOBLOC
This is an independent mono power amplifier, so two of them are required to power a stereo system. Advantages include a lack of interaction between channels.

MOVING COIL
Cartridge design with a stylus connected to coils which move in relation to fixed magnets so as to create electrical signals. Lower output than moving magnet.

MOVING MAGNET
Cartridge design in which a tiny magnet connected to the stylus moves relative to a fixed coil in the body, generating the signal.

MP3
MPEG 1, layer 3. The compression system used for downloading music files from the Internet to a PC or MP3 recording device. It reduces file sizes by a factor of 12 to enable faster downloads.

NICAM
CD-quality digital stereo television sound which is transmitted alongside the picture.

OHM
Unit of resistance to current. Impedance of a speaker is measured in ohms – generally the lower the figure the harder it is to drive.

OVERSAMPLING
Used in DAC systems. Increases signal frequency, making it easier for conversion circuitry and ancillary systems to filter out unwanted signals.

PASSIVE
A circuit or component which does not amplify the signal.

PHONO STAGE
Cartridges output signals at much lower levels than CD players and tape decks. Many amplifiers have the extra amplification built-in, but increasing numbers don't, and require an add-on phono amplifier.

PMPO
Stands for peak music power, used on gear like mini systems and ghetto-blasters that needs to look more powerful than it is.

POWER AMPLIFIER
Supplies audio signals to the loudspeakers.

POWER HANDLING
The maximum safe power for speakers. But be aware that it's easier to damage speakers with an amp of too low power driven hard, than with too much power.

PREAMPLIFIER
The control part of an amp. Built into integrated amps, but can be separate and used with power amp or active speakers.

PRO-LOGIC see Dolby.

RDS
Radio Data System: data piggybacked on FM radio allowing RDS tuners to display the names of stations, and perform a wide range of station-seek and switching functions.

SAMPLING RATE
How fast a digital recorder or player samples a signal. CD and MiniDisc use a rate of 44.1kHz – ie 44,100 samples per second – while DAT recorders offer a choice of 48kHz or 44.1kHz, and Digital Audio Broadcasting works on 32kHz. A digital-to-analogue converter needs to work on all three rates.

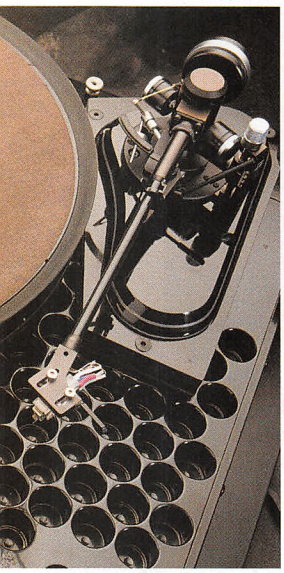
SHIELDING
Keeps a conductor or equipment away from unwanted interference.

SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO
This describes the difference between the level of the audio signal and the level of unwanted noise present in that signal. The larger the figure, which is measured in dB, the

lower the noise present in the signal will be.

SIX-CHANNEL INPUT
Many DVD players now have built-in Dolby Digital decoders. To take advantage of these they need to be connected to a home cinema amplifier with a six channel input (one input for each surround sound channel).

SUBWOOFER
A separate woofer box to produce the bass smaller speakers can't.



Record decks consist of a motor unit, cartridge and tonearm (above)

SUPER AUDIO CD (SACD)
Developed by Sony and Philips, SACD uses 1-bit Direct Stream Digital (DSD) recording technology. Most discs are dual layer, with a standard CD layer which will play on a conventional CD player and a second SACD layer for improved performance when replayed on a dedicated SACD machine. A very few discs have multichannel tracks.

TAPE LOOP
A pair of sockets on an amp letting the signal out for recording on a tape deck and another pair to let the signal back in for replay.

Widescreen TVs allow you to enjoy the 16.9 ratio to the full

THX
Developed by LucasFilm, this is a set of standards for Dolby Pro-Logic gear, which should guarantee a certain quality of home cinema sound. Needs electronics and speakers made to exacting specifications, which tend to be pricey.

The tweeter is a very small driver designed to handle high frequencies

TONEARM
The device on a turntable which holds the cartridge.

TOROIDAL TRANSFORMER
Transformers bring mains voltages down to the levels required. Toroidal transformers (doughnut-shaped) get better stability and less flux leakage.

TRANSIENTS
Short and sudden events in music such as a cymbal crash or the crack of a stick on a snare drum. They are difficult to reproduce.

TREBLE
High frequencies. When we say treble is splashy, it means that cymbals, for example, sound like they're going 'tizzshsh', rather than having a sting and a crispness.

TRIAMPING/TRIWIRING
Like biamping and biwiring, but for three-way speakers. Needs three runs of cable in the case of triwiring and three stereo amps if you want to triamp the loudspeakers.

TWEETER
The speaker driver which handles the treble frequencies.

VALVE
Amplifying device: electrodes in a glass vacuum enclosure. Produces a warm, seductive sound.

WATT
Unit of power. More watts mean more power, but how loud a system sounds also depends on speaker sensitivity and room size. See PMPO.

THX SURROUND EX
Officially-licensed decoding system for Dolby Digital Surround EX software. Mode can also be applied to DTS-ES software. Usually uses two centre-rear channel speakers.

WIDESCREEN
More and more TV programmes, and nearly all DVD discs, are shown in widescreen format. This can vary from 14:9 (a compromise ratio used by TV broadcasters) to 16:9 which is the ratio used on widescreen TV sets and most DVDs. Many films shown at the cinema are in 21:9, while conventional 'square' TVs are 4:3.

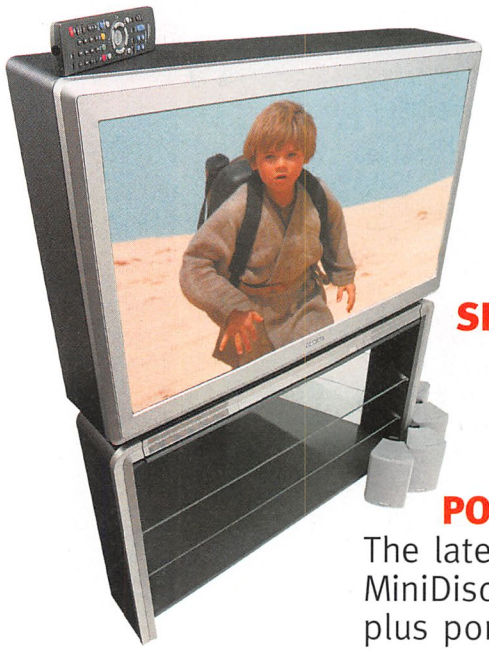
WOOFER
The large drive unit in a speaker which produces the bass.

Next month

In January's awesome issue of What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision

One-make hi-fi systems

We reveal the sonic and style advantages of matching CD players, amps and speakers – but which manufacturer offers the best combo?



SURROUND TV SUPERTEST

All the top home cinema televisions reviewed
Plus! TV set-up step-by-step – how to get the very best from a widescreen wonder

SPEAKER SHOOTOUT

Can floorstanding and standmounted speakers really compete? We find out

PORTABLES SPECIAL

The latest takeaway kit on test: MiniDisc, MP3 and CD personals, plus portable DVD players

PLUS! BUYER'S FILE

MICRO SYSTEMS
Small-space solutions
HOME CINEMA IN A BOX
Simple all-in-one surround systems rated

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION On sale Thursday 13th December

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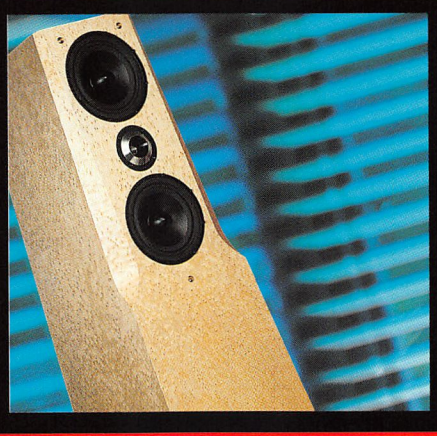
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

Buying guide



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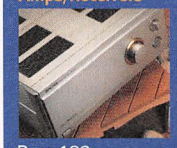
Amps/Receivers  PAGE 183

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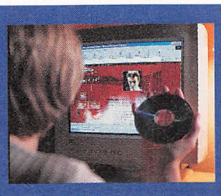
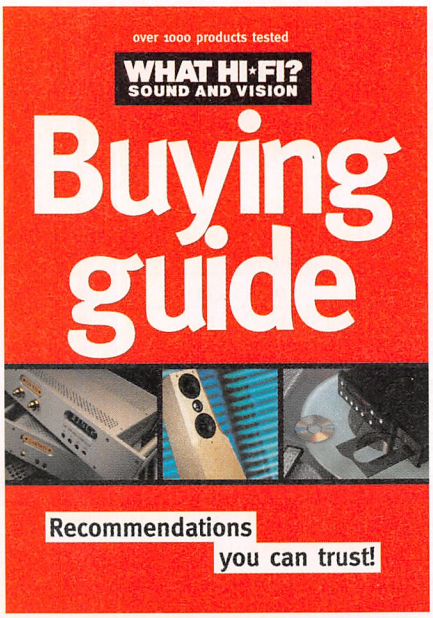
HI-FI MARKET PLACE

Demo rooms near you


Where to buy online

100s of dealers



THE UK'S NO.1 HI-FI AND HOME CINEMA BUYING GUIDE

STAR RATINGS EXPLAINED

Award winner ★★★★★ Supertest winner ★★★★★

Phenomenal value ★★★★★ Should be auditioned ★★★★☆

Average for the money ★★★☆☆ Not what we'd expect ★★☆☆☆

Deeply uninteresting ★☆☆☆☆

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CD MULTI PLAYERS PAGE 155
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INTEGRATED CD PLAYERS BEST BUYS

up to £500

1 **Arcam DiVA CD72** £400

2 **NAD C521** £200
3 **Sony CDP-XE570** £140
4 **Marantz CD6000KI** £500
5 **Sony CDP-XE330** £100

Best Buys over £500

1 **Cyrus CD7** £800
2 **Naim CD5** £1125
3 **Meridian 588** £1950
4 **Roksan Caspian** £895
5 **Arcam FMJ CD23** £1100

KEY: DAC Turns digital data into an analogue signal to feed to your amp, and can have a major influence on the sound. B = BITSTREAM; M = MULTIBIT; D = DELTA/SIGMA; T = SONY S-TACT; H = HYBRID, R = RING; O = OTHER
We also highlight any unusual digital filter systems. These include: H = HDCD; V = SONY VC24 VARIABLE; L = PIONEER LEGATO LINK; A = AUDIONOTE NON-OVERSAMPLING (NO FILTER!)
Digital output O = OPTICAL; C = COAXIAL ELECTRICAL; B = BNC ELECTRICAL; AES/EBU = BALANCED ELECTRICAL
Memory The number of tracks that can be stored
Display off Can give a subtle improvement in sound
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £600

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACT				
				TYPE OF DAC	DIGITAL OUT	MEMORY	REMOTE	DISPLAY OFF
Arcam DIVA CD72	400	★★★★★ Sep 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. This new version is simply amazing.	M	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Audio Note AN-CD1	599	★★★☆☆ Apr 99	Rich, lush sound will suit some tastes but its major flaw lies in its woolly bass.	D	O	20	Yes	No
Cambridge Audio D500	200	★★★☆☆ Oct 99	While the D500's heart is in the right place and it sounds good, it's no world-beater.	D	C/O	21	Yes	No
Creek CD43Mk2	599	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Classy player, understated and capable of a refined, musical sound. Deserves an audition.	D	C	21	Yes	No
Denon DCD-435	130	★★★☆☆ Apr 00	Majors on spark and drive but its 'in yer face' presentation can prove fatiguing.	D	O	20	Yes	Yes
Denon DCD-655	180	★★★☆☆ Feb 00	Adequate with vocals but disappoints with its lifeless and hazy presentation.	M	O	20	Yes	Yes
Denon DCD-835	230	★★★★★ Mar 01	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. May be an oldie, but it's still a goodie too.	M	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Denon DCD-1550AR	350	★★★★☆ Oct 98	Big and impressive-looking with plenty of detail and clout but it can sound mechanical.	M	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Eclipse CD101	80	★★★★★ Jul 94	A veritable bargain, and more than decent sound, from this Chinese-built CD player.	M	No	16	Yes	No
JVC XL-Z574BK	300	★★☆☆☆ Apr 98	Well-built with a reasonable sound but pricey and desperately ordinary.	B	C/O	32	Yes	No
JVC XL-Z674BK	370	★★☆☆☆ Mar 97	Solid, sturdy build, but a disappointingly dull and unexciting sounding player.	B	C/O	32	Yes	Yes
Kenwood DPF-3030S	180	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Good dynamics and punch means no shortage of thrills, but insight disappoints.	B	O	20	Yes	No
Marantz CD4000	100	★★★★☆ Apr 00	Combines fine speed and attack with a big, expressive and confident tonality that appeals.	B	C	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD5000	150	★★★★☆ Feb 00	Big clean sound with bags of presence, but lacks the punch to impress.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD6000 OSE LE	300	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Highly capable machine and excellent value for money.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD6000KI	500	★★★★☆ Feb 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Excellent player with refined presentation.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Minium CD	400	★★★☆☆ Mar 97	Genuine appeal for a mixed menu of music as it offers warm, rich and lush sound.	B	C	20	Yes	No
NAD C521	200	★★★★★ Jul 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Clarity combined with real refinement and grip.	D	C	0	Yes	No
NAD C540	249	★★★★★ Sep 00	Taut basslines and well resolved treble - a highly accomplished player.	D	C	0	Yes	No
NAD 524	250	★★★★★ May 99	Big sound with well-controlled bass makes this a cracker of a CD player.	D	C	0	Yes	No
NAD C541	330	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Well balanced sound and excellent resolution - great all-rounder and a solid buy.	D	C	20	Yes	No
Onkyo DX-7222	150	★★★☆☆ Nov 99	Competent enough player, but not good enough to upset the class leaders.	B	O	36	Yes	No
Parasound C/DP-1000	500	★★★☆☆ Feb 99	American machismo for sensible money but while it impresses up top the bass lacks beef.	H	C	20	Yes	No
Pioneer PD-207	120	★★★☆☆ Aug 99	Fine facilities and plenty of thrills but will sound too up-front for some.	B	O	24	Yes	Yes
Rega Planet	498	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Unusual in style but conventional at heart - just needs to offer a little more excitement.	H	C	99	Yes	Yes
Roksan Kandy	495	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Musical player that knows how to rock - but at this price rivals abound.	B	C/O	36	Yes	No
Rotel RCD-951	375	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Solidly built and classy-looking player which rewards with detail and fine dynamics.	MH	C	20	Yes	No
Rotel RCD-971	475	★★★☆☆ Oct 98	A well-made and pleasant enough machine which offers HDCD for sensible money.	MH	C	20	Yes	No
Sony CDP-XE570	140	★★★★★ Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Striking, thanks to performance and build quality.	B	O	24	Yes	No
Sony CDP-XB740E	200	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Great player with weighty bass and sweet treble plus an ability to deliver bags of bite.	B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Technics SL-PS7	200	★★★☆☆ Mar 01	Makes a big impression but then numbs you into relaxation - lacks excitement.	B	O	20	Yes	No

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Speakers P219-229
Systems P233-237
Home Cinema P241-259
Accessories P260-267

Up to £600 CD players

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	TYPE OF DAC	DIGITAL OUT	MEMORY	REMOTE	DISPLAY OFF
Yamaha CDX-396	130	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Big, smooth, system-friendly sound which would suit a bright sounding budget system.		B	Opt	20	Yes	No
Yamaha CDX-496	180	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Smooth, generous presentation but it can sound too laidback at times.		B	Opt	40	Yes	Yes

£601–£8000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	TYPE OF DAC	DIGITAL OUT	MEMORY	REMOTE	DISPLAY OFF
Arcam DiVA CD92	850	★★★★☆ May 01	Undoubtedly a fine player, but it can suffer from an edgy quality in the treble.		R	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Arcam FMJ CD23	1100	★★★★★ Mar 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Fine styling and brilliant sound - Arcam has done a fab job.		R	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Audio Analogue Paganini	795	★★★★☆ Aug 01	All-new Paganini, appeals strongly for its style and seductive sonic performance.		M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Audio Analogue Maestro	1500	★★★☆☆ Nov 01	Good CD player and even better when DAC section is fed from a DVD-V transport.		M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Audio Note CD2.1X	999	★★★★★ Awd 01	Stunning - will take some beating for fidelity to the original, warts and all.		M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Audio Note AN-CD2	1000	★★★★★ Dec 97	An impressive machine that turns on the thrills without sounding mechanical.		M	C	32	Yes	No
Audio Note AN-CD3.1Xn	1500	★★★★☆ Jun 01	Sounds like no other machine we've encountered - audition before taking the plunge.		M	C	20	Yes	No
Audio Refinement Complete	875	★★★☆☆ Feb 00	Wonderfully built with superb styling, but the sound can't quite match the looks.		M	C	20	No	No
AVI S2000MC Reference 24	999	★★★★☆ Mar 00	One for the audiophiles with its minimalist style and its refined, yet powerful sound.		D	C	99	Yes	Yes
Bow Technology Wizard	3495	★★★★☆ Dec 99	Looks absolutely wonderful and offers competitive sound quality.		B	C	0	Yes	No
Bow Technology ZZ-Eight	4995	★★★★★ Nov 97	A hefty player which handles music with a rare mix of open clarity and weighty drive.		M	C	99	Yes	Yes
Copland CDA266	1199	★★★★★ Jan 98	Neutral component that just lets the music through - by turns delicate and driving.		M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Copland CDA-289	1898	★★★★★ Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Superlative sonics and fine build make it good value.		M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Creek CD53	1200	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Fine machine from this British company - superbly sweet yet detailed sound.		D	C/O	16	Yes	No
Cyrus CD7	800	★★★★★ May 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Lovely to use and has a precise, detailed sound.		M	C	99	Yes	Yes
Digital Audio Co The Ultimate	5000	★★★★★ Apr 97	Brings a new dimension to CD sound, giving it a rich texture with fast, awesome dynamics.		M	C/O	0	Yes	Yes
Electrocompaniet EMC1 Ref.	2249	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Classy and capable player that can really sing in the right system.		24	C/A	0	Yes	No
JVC XL-SD1GD	900	★★★☆☆ Aug 98	Well-built and a sound that's easy to live with, but the competition is tough.		B	C/O	32	Yes	Yes
Krell KAV-280CD	3999	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Impressive technical tour de force, but others offer a more enjoyable, relaxing listen.		M	C/O	0	Yes	No
Linn Genki	995	★★★★★ Mar 00	Complements its technical versatility with a delightful sonic purity.		D	C	20	Yes	Yes
Linn Ikemi	1950	★★★★☆ Apr 00	Precise and punchy sound and well-engineered, but falls short of the best at this price.		D	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Marantz CD-17KI Signature	1100	★★★★★ May 97	Very special player. Makes both well-known and unfamiliar music an absolute pleasure.		B	C	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD-17 MkII KI	1200	★★★★★ Jul 01	Thrilling machine - looks the business and is more than sensibly priced for what it does.		B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD-14	1600	★★★★☆ Apr 98	Tight and very musical, but the Marantz CD-17 KI-Signature does it all for less money.		B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Mark Levinson No 39	4995	★★★★★ Jul 99	Terrific all-rounder which offers a superb performance and fine value.		M	C	99	Yes	Yes
Meracus Tanto	1395	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Sounds like no other machine we've heard, but the benefits of this type of sound elude us.		D	O/B	99	Yes	Yes
Meridian 588	1950	★★★★★ Jul 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Classy British player that sounds as luxurious as it looks.		M	C/O	31	Yes	Yes
Monrio Asty Player	750	★★★★★ Apr 00	Classy Italian product that produces a sophisticated and entertaining sound.		24	C	20	Yes	No
Musical Fidelity A3CD	800	★★★★☆ May 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Superbly musical, but no longer rests at the top of the pile.		B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Musical Fidelity X-Ray	800	★★★★★ Feb 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. A winning mix of detail and sheer musicality.		B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Musical Fidelity Nu-Vista 3D	2995	★★★★★ Nov 01	Remarkable player using Nuvistor valves - vibrant and entirely natural sound.		M	C/O	24	Yes	No
Myryad MCD 600	1300	★★★★★ Aug 01	An accomplished player that simply delivers music with the minimum of fuss.		D	C	24	Yes	Yes
NAD S500	1000	★★★★☆ May 99	Impressive player, with distinctive looks and characterful sound. Won't suit all tastes.		M	C	0	Yes	No
Naim CD5	1125	★★★★★ Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Delivers a sound as thrilling as it is involving.		M	No	99	Yes	Yes
Naim CDX	2400	★★★★★ Feb 99	Excellent player; add Naims XPS power supply and it becomes something stunning.		MH	No	99	Yes	Yes
Naim CDS II/XPS	6080	★★★★☆ Jul 99	Used with the XPS power supply it's staggeringly agile, gutsy and exciting.		MH	No	99	Yes	Yes
Primare D-20	700	★★★★☆ Feb 99	Revised internal circuitry has improved the performance, but some may find it too smooth.		D	C	0	Yes	Yes
Primare D30.2	1500	★★★★☆ Sep 01	By any standards this is a fine player - will appeal most to owners of other Primare kit.		M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Resolution Audio CD55	2500	★★★★★ Mar 01	Superlative performer - a master of rhythm and a detail demon to boot.		24	No	0	Yes	No
Roksan Caspian	895	★★★★★ May 01	The new Caspian emerges as a truly stunning product - bringing all types of music to life.		B	C	20	Yes	No
Roksan Attessa DP3.P	1600	★★★★★ Apr 99	An exceptional player from Roksan with striking styling and an ear-friendly sound.		B	C	20	Yes	No
Rotel RCD-991	825	★★★★☆ May 01	Gutsy sounding and doesn't skimp on subtleties but can't challenge the class leaders.		MH	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Shearne Audio Phase 7	1499	★★★★★ Apr 99	Extremely listenable with a substantial sound, and it's HDCD compatible.		M	B	20	Yes	No

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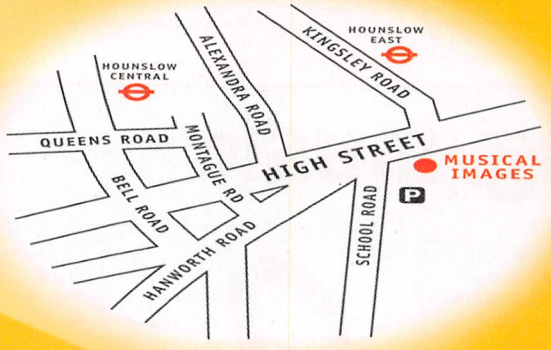

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SOURCES

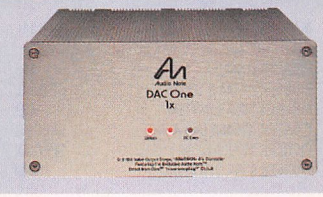
£601–£8000 CD PLAYERS

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	TYPE OF DAC	DIGITAL OUT	MEMORY	REMOTE	DISPLAY OFF
Sim Audio Moon Eclipse	4200	★★★★☆ Apr 00	Very worthy machine that can sound breathtaking when carefully partnered.		M	B	30	Yes	Yes
Sugden CD Master	1249	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Micro system looks combined with high quality sound.		M	C	99	Yes	No
T+A Pulsar D 1210R	1200	★★★★★ Nov 99	Superbly rounded player which sounds terrific, leaving little scope for serious criticism.		D	O	20	Yes	Yes
T+A CD3000R	5800	★★★★☆ Dec 99	A heavyweight player in all senses of the word but it can be a tad soulless.		DM	C/O	0	Yes	No
TAG McLaren Audio CD20R	1249	★★★★☆ Nov 98	High levels of performance match its build standard, but it faces stiff competition.		B	C	60	Yes	Yes
TEAC VRDS-9	700	★★★★☆ Jun 97	Brings high-end technology to mini system styling. Perfect upgrade for the Reference 500.		M	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Thule Audio Spirit CD150B	900	★★★★☆ Feb 99	Smooth, lush sound that will please many and its unusual design gives it cool looks.		D	C	0	Yes	Yes
Wadia 830	3000	★★★★★ Dec 99	Ugly looks but astonishing sonic abilities - ranks as a true star at its price point.		M	Opt	0	Yes	No
Wadia 850	4995	★★★★★ Nov 98	Delivers presence and subtlety. Dynamics are wide ranging and rhythms taut and precise.		M	Opt	20	Yes	Yes
Wadia 860	7450	★★★★★ Jul 99	Tank-like build and superlative sound. Handles all types of music with aplomb.		M	O/B	20	Yes	Yes

CD TRANSPORTS AND DACS

Best Buy DACs

1 **Audio Note DAC One 1x** £749
2 **Audiomeca Elixir** £850
3 **Meridian 566.24** £1380
4 **Thorens TDA 2000** £750



Best Buy Transports

1 **TAG McLaren CDT20R** £1499
2 **AudioMeca Obsession** £899
3 **Mark Levinson No.37** £3995
4 **Meridian 500** £1325

KEY: DAC Turns digital data into an analogue signal.
B = BITSTREAM; M = MULTIBIT; D = DELTA/SIGMA; T = SONY S-TACT; H = HYBRID, R = RING; O = OTHER
Sampling/bit rate The maximum resolution of a DAC. CD is 44.1kHz/16-bit, full-blown DVD-Audio is 192kHz/24-bit, SACD uses its own single-bit system, DSD.

Memory The number of tracks that can be stored
Digital out/in Bear in mind that the input on a DAC should match the transport's digital outputs
O = OPTICAL; C = COAXIAL ELECTRICAL; B = BNC ELECTRICAL; AES/EBU = BALANCED ELECTRICAL
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £4000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	TRANSPORT OR DAC	SAMPLING RATE	DIGITAL OUT	MEMORY	DISPLAY OFF
Audio Note DAC One 1x	749	★★★★★ Sep 00	Superbly natural, this cracking DAC succeeds in giving CDs new life.		D	44.1/48	C/A	-	No
Audiomeca Elixir	850	★★★★★ Jun 99	Combine this chic French Elixir with the Obsession transport for natural, unforced sound.		D	32/41.1/48	C/B	-	No
Audiomeca Obsession	899	★★★★★ Jun 99	Unusual, and unusually classy - that's the Elixir DAC combined with the Obsession.		T	44.1/16	C/B	99	No
Mark Levinson No 37	3995	★★★★★ Jun 96	Uses an industrial CD-ROM drive - it's built like a truck and a delight to use.		T	-	C	99	Yes
Meridian 566.24	1380	★★★★☆ Feb 99	Good range of input/output flexibility but with 500 transport it lacks spark and spirit.		D	32/44.1/48	C/O	-	No
Monarchy Audio Model 18	595	★★★★☆ Aug 95	Improve the imagery and detail of top CD players; sounds warmer with powerful rock.		D	32/44.1/48	C/O/A	-	No
TAG McLaren Audio CDT20R-T2L	1499	★★★★★ Nov 00	Combine with the TAG DPA32R DAB digital preamplifier for an extremely musical player.		T	44.1/16	C/O/A	59	Yes

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CD MULTIPLAYERS

Best Buys up to £500

1 **NAD 523** £250
2 **Kenwood DPF-J3030** £250
3 **Nakamichi MB-10** £350
4 **Pioneer PD-F1009** £250
5 **Kenwood DPF-R6030** £180

Best Buy over £500

1 **Denon DCM-5000** £1500
This little monster can take 100 discs, which should be enough for even the most hardened party animal, and it sounds great too.

KEY: DAC Turns digital data into an analogue signal to feed to your amp; can have a major influence on the sound.
B/S = BITSTREAM; M/B = MULTIBIT; LEG - LEGATO LINK (PIONEER); DELTA/SIG = DELTA SIGMA
Sampling/bit rate The maximum resolution of a DAC. CD is 44.1kHz/16-bit, full-blown DVD-Audio is 192kHz/24-bit, SACD uses its own single-bit system, DSD. However, bear in mind that the CDs themselves are still 44.1kHz/16-bit!
Digital output O = OPTICAL; C = COAXIAL ELECTRICAL; B = BNC ELECTRICAL; AES/EBU = BALANCED ELECTRICAL
Display off Can give a subtle improvement in sound.
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £1700

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS					
				TYPE OF DAC	NO OF DISCS	DIGITAL OUT	MEMORY	HEADPHONES	REMOTE
Denon DCM-5000	1500	★★★★★ Dec 99	Twin CD transports give this player great multiroom capability and superb sound.	MH	100	C	160	Yes	Yes
JVC XL-F5THBK	230	★★☆☆☆ Feb 98	Offers very average sonic performance for the money and facilities are thin on the ground.	B	5	No	32	Yes	No
Kenwood DPF-R6030	180	★★★★☆ Jun 00	Delivers music with subtley and dynamics - a tad lightweight, but impresses overall.	B	5	C/O	32	Yes	Yes
Kenwood DPF-J3030	250	★★★★☆ Jul 00	Excellent ease of use and good detail and dynamics. A great way to store 200 discs.	B	200	O	32	Yes	Yes
Kenwood DPF-J6030	290	★★★★☆ Awd 00	Decent enough sonics, amazing flexibility, 200-disc capacity, and all at a sensible price.	B	200	O	32	Yes	Yes
Kenwood DPF-J9030	399	★★★☆☆ Oct 00	Not a dull listen, and you'll never lose it on the kit-rack. Lacks finesse and subtlety.	B	200	O	32	Yes	Yes
NAD 523	250	★★★★★ Oct 99	Minimalist design that gives a well-rounded, realistic presentation.	B	5	No	30	No	Yes
Nakamichi MB-10	350	★★★★☆ May 99	Good looks and lively rhythmic sound. Convenience at a very reasonable price.	M	5	C/O	36	Yes	Yes
Pioneer PD-F958	230	★★★☆☆ Nov 99	Offers great convenience and is easy to use, but its sound ultimately disappoints.	B	101	O	36	Yes	Yes
Pioneer PD-F1009	250	★★★★☆ Nov 00	Much to offer - logical and fuss-free to program and a hard multiplayer to beat for sound.	B	301	O	36	Yes	Yes
Pioneer PD-F1007	300	★★★☆☆ Sep 99	Great for parties, pubs or the incredibly lazy, but average sound quality lets it down.	B	301	O	36	Yes	Yes
Sony CDP-CX235	220	★★☆☆☆ Nov 00	Worth an audition if a multiplayer is a must, but comes up short for sound for your pound.	B	200	O	32	No	Yes

SACD PLAYERS BEST BUYS

up to £2700

1 **Sony SCD-XA333ES** £1300 2 **Sony SCD-XB770 UKSE** £400
3 **Sony SCD-1** £2700

over £2700

Marantz SA-1 £5000
Quite simply the best SACD, and CD, player we've ever heard. Superb build and awesome performance

KEY: DAC All SACD players are based on the single-bit Direct Stream Digital format, which brings its own decoders and conversion technology. However, we highlight any unusual digital filter systems used for CD playback. These include: H = HDCD; V = SONY VC24 VARIABLE; L = PIONEER LEGATO LINK; A = AUDIONOTE NON-OVERSAMPLING (NO FILTER!)
Digital output (Currently these players only output digitally from CD, not SACD) O = OPTICAL; C = COAXIAL ELECTRICAL; B = BNC ELECTRICAL; AES/EBU = BALANCED ELECTRICAL
Memory The number of tracks that can be stored
Display off Can give a subtle improvement in sound.
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £5000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS				
				TYPE OF DAC	DIGITAL OUT	MEMORY	REMOTE	DISPLAY OFF
Marantz SA-1	5000	★★★★★ Nov 00	State of the art CD replay, stunning with SACDs.	B	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Sharp DX-SX1H	2700	★★★★★ Dec 00	Tested with SM-SX1 digital amplifier - the combo is as significant as it is impressive.	B	C/O	20	Yes	No
Sony SCD-555ES	1200	★★★★★ Mar 01	Superb machine - fine performance from SACD and CD software.	B	C/O	99	Yes	Yes
Sony SCD-XA333ES	1300	★★★★★ Sep 01	Another fine Sony SACD machine, and it cuts it with CD, too. A very good player indeed.	B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Sony SCD-1	2700	★★★★☆ Sep 99	Outperformed with CD but with SACD it delivers superb clarity, slam and insight.	B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes

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www.whathifi.com

HOME ENTERTAINMENT ACCESSORIES

WATCH SATELLITE IN BED

VSplus £99

Watch and Control Satellite or Video in any room in your house. High quality stereo audio and Video senders with no cables to run

COPY FOREIGN MOVIES

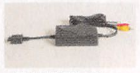
NTSC-PAL-SECAM

Perfect conversions from DVD, Video, Satellite, camcorder, etc. The widest range of Digital Standards Converters in the UK

CDM-660	-	Budget	£169
CDM-600	-	Economy	£299
CDM-620	-	Compact	£299
CDM-630	-	Miniature Miracle	£399
CDM-640	-	Extra (with PC out)	£849
CDM-640A	-	ProMaster 2	£599
CDM-830T	-	ProMaster Plus	£799
MCV-6	-	World VCR Converter	£499

ANALOGUE CONVERTERS

CN-100P NTSC-PAL £49.95
CP-100N PAL-NTSC £49.95
CS-100P SECAM-PAL £89.95
CP-100N PAL-SECAM £89.95



N-PS2 NTSC-PAL £39.95

New for Playstation 2 imported US models.

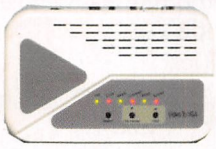
CN-100P allows viewing of NTSC 3.58 signal on PAL TV - will turn Black and White to full colour

OPTICAL TO COAX S/PDIF

CO-2 £59.95

Converts both ways - allows you to interface between DVD, Surround Amps, DAT & Minidisc, etc. 2Toslink + 2RCA digital coax in/out sockets.

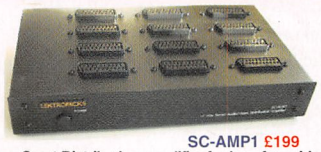
VIDEO TO VGA CONVERTER



CM-330 £79.95

Accepts Composite or S video signal - view video picture on any VGA monitor

MULTIPLE VIDEO COPIES



SC-AMP1 £199

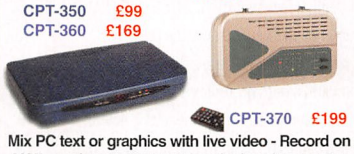
10 way Scart Distribution amplifier for loss free video copies - ideal for duplication or shop display. Composite & S-VHS + Stereo audio

CVD-1000 £89
4 way stereo AV Switcher/ Distributer

PC TO VIDEO CONVERTERS

Just connect any of these converters between your PC and Monitor and whatever is on your PC screen can be simply recorded on a VCR or viewed on a normal TV. Ideal for copying DVDs onto video

CPT-350 £99
CPT-360 £169



CPT-370 £199

Mix PC text or graphics with live video - Record on VCR or view on TV. Ideal for display, demos, etc.

VIDEO TO USB INTERFACE

CVP2000 £60

View a live video window on your PC screen - even when working in another application. Record the video to a .AVI file on your hard disk. Accepts composite or S-video signals.

PICTURE FRAME SPEAKERS

You'll be amazed when you hear them - come to our showroom and hear the latest hang-on-the-wall NXT technology. 40watt rms per panel + 30watt rms Sub-woofer.

2 panels + SubWoofer NXT £199
Extra panels £160 pair

20MM THICK NXT FM RADIO

FM radio + Amplified speaker system. Can be wall or desk mounted. Insert your own picture. Size 250 x 190 x 20mm

NXTRAD £24

LCD LEARNING REMOTES

Easy learning control - backlit LCD touch panel Change text and logos of any button to match all your kit.

SMART 10 way remote £109
Optional Smart Docking Station, Rechargeable batteries + PC link £59

E-PILOT 8way £64.95

HOOK-UP PROBLEMS SOLVED

Quattro+ £79.95

The easy way to connect all your kit -DVD, Satellite, VCR, On Digital, etc. to your TV and Hi-fi. Ideal when you've not enough scarts on your TV. Plug & Play unit with remote control

RGB TO S/COMPOSITE + VIDEO STABILISER

RGB-S £Special

Top quality converter for DVD or Digibox - connect to any high-end surround sound or Projector. Built-in digital stabiliser circuitry enables back-up to any VCR

COLOUR QUAD PROCESSORS

CCQ-10 £354 CCQ-30 £519

Connect 4 video cameras and view 4 pictures on a TV screen at the same time. Also available 2-page model accepts 8 video signals. NEW MODEL CCQ-30USB lets you store on PC hard disc or up-load to the internet for distant real time monitoring

MULTI-REGION DVD PLAYER

Plays all discs - DVD, SVCD, VCD, MP3, CD, CD-R, CD-RW, Karaoke. Outputs PAL50 even with NTSC discs - compatible with all UK TVs. DTS - Dolby Digital - 5.1 audio. S video, Composite video and Component video out.

DVD-2101 £special

TV TUNER

Stand alone TV tuner - Ideal for In-car installations or for use with Plasma or Projectors. Complete with Remote control + 12V dc adaptor

Tellytune £89.95

VIDEO DISC RECORDER

VDR-2100 £Special Introductory Offer

Record from any VCR, DVD, CD or Camera onto low cost CD-R or CD-RW discs. Up to 80 minutes in 250 line resolution or 40 minutes - 350 line resolution. S video or C-V in/out connections + 2 Mic. inputs with Echo facility - karaoke functions - surround effects

PERFECT VIDEO COPIES

COPYYMATE CM-1 £59.95

Copy any Video tape-removes flashing & colour bleed - controls for Colour / Sharpness / Sync - Easy Scart connection - also works with SKY Digibox and Region 2 DVDs.

COPYYMATE deLuxe CM-2 £149

All the features of the CM-1 plus controls for Brightness, Contrast, Red, Green, Blue, Fade, etc. Great for correcting White Balance Errors. S-Video and Composite compatible.

PRECISION RF MODULATOR

CSV-5 £49

Converts Video + Stereo audio to RF. Ideal for TVs without AV sockets. Crystal controlled, selectable output- Ch 21-69.

REAL TIME VIDEO MIXER

CMX-07 £Special Introductory Offer

Mix 2 S video or C-V signals. Hundreds of wipes/fades/effects. Moveable/resizeable Picture in Picture effect. Mosaic, Negative, Chroma key, Strobe, Fade , Audio Mix, etc.etc.

VIDEO FORMAT CONVERTER

Composite or S-VHS inputs - CMT-7 £199
S-VHS, Composite, Y-U-V, RGB output
Ideal interface for PAL DVD, VCR, Satellite, etc. to Plasma, Projector, etc.

ENLARGE TV BY 50%

From £29.95 to £99

High Definition Acrylic Fresnel lens system Increases TV picture size by up to 50%. 7 different sizes for 14" to 32" TVs. 2 models for 28" and 32" widescreen. Easy clip on/off fitting.

PICTURE IN PICTURE

Watch 2 TV pictures on TV at the same time! PIP-1 offers simple scart connections - 2 inputs (say Satellite + VCR) plus scart output to TV. Remote control operation lets you swap pictures - move position on screen-change size of picture). CIP-2 model has rca sockets ideal for security cameras. PIP-1 £199 CIP-2 £149

HANDY SWITCH BOXES

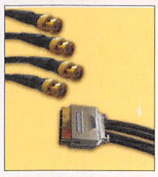
2 way / 3 way / 4 way Scart switches
2 way / 3way / 4 way RCA switches
2 way / 4 way Speaker controls
2 way Amplifier Source switches

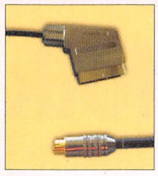
NEW 4 way S-VHS + 3 RCA Stereo Audio/Video switcher. 2 Parallel outputs + Headphone monitor

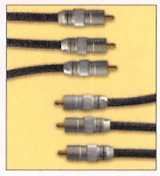
BT942 £39.95

EVERY CABLE YOU NEED

5 STAR Ratings from What Hi-fi and What Video magazines.
High quality custom cables plus a range of Superb Home cinema leads - for bettter sound & vision.







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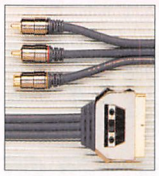

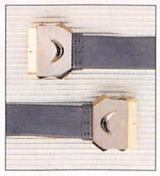

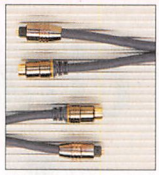

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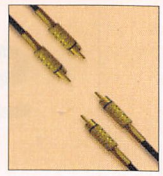

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5 Star Award Winner

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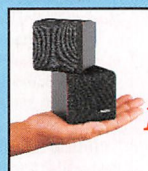

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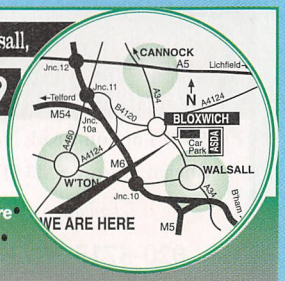

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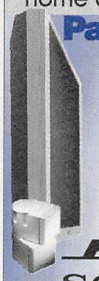

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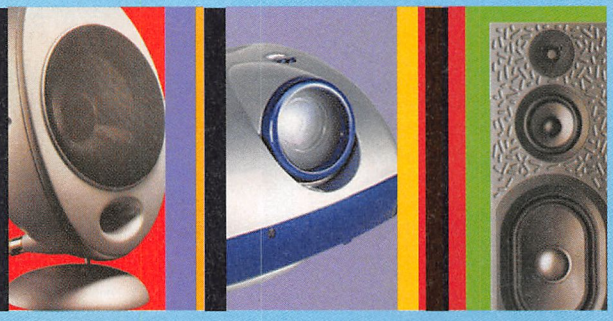

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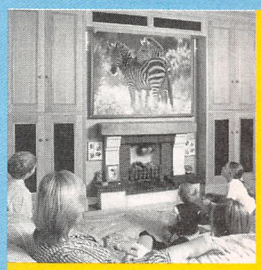

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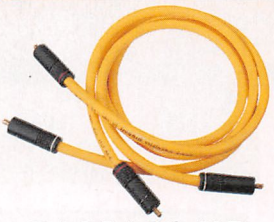

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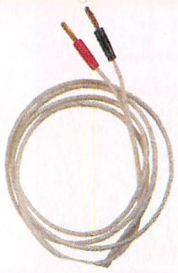

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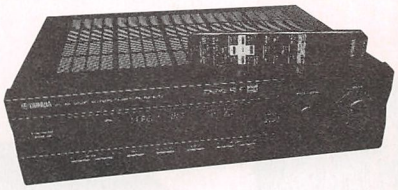

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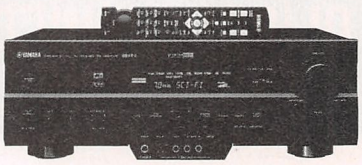

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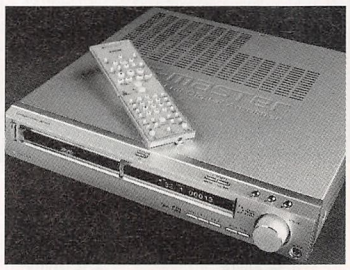

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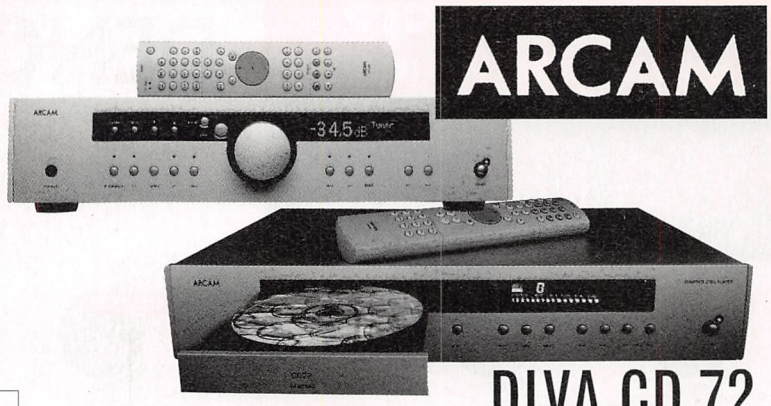

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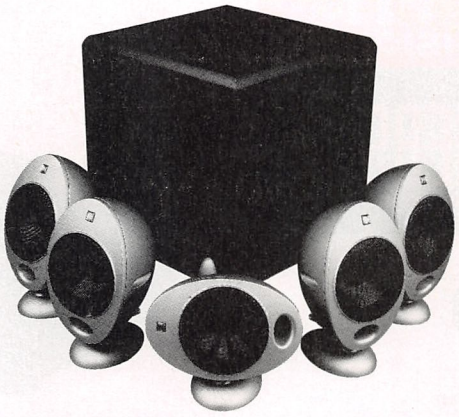

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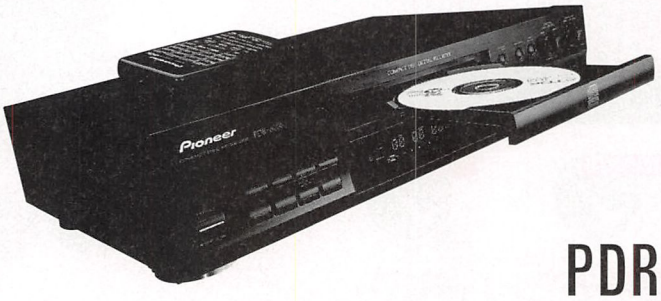

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up to £50

1 **Beyerdynamic DT231** £40
2 **Vivanco SR750** £50
3 **Beyer DT75** £35
4 **Philips SCP-HP620** £50

£50+

1 **Grado SR60** £79
2 **Sennheiser HD-600** £250
3 **AKG K105 UHF** £60
4 **Grado RS1** £695

KEY: Weight Given in grammes. Bear in mind that the lightest headphones aren't always the least comfortable, and a slightly heavier pair might sit more firmly on your head
Type Open-back headphones tend to give a sound that's more airy, spacious and – well, open! Closed-back designs offer better isolation from outside noise, and usually better bass, while semi-open headphones attempt to combine the best points of the two styles
Jack 6.3mm for separates, 3.5mm for personals and minis
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £700

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS		
					WEIGHT	TYPE	JACK
AKG K-55	25	★★★☆☆	Aug 99	Good imaging and detail although at times we wished for more excitement.	210	Closed	3.5/6.3
AKG K-66	30	★★★☆☆	Apr 00	Don't suit long listening sessions but they work a treat for a dip into the classics.	210	S/Open	6.3
AKG K105 UHF	60	★★★★★	Nov 00	By far the best-sounding cordless designs we have heard and the system works a treat.	220g	S/Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K141 Monitor	80	★★★★☆	Dec 95	Captivating sound. Only the treble can be criticised, as it's not quite incisive enough.	225	S/Open	6.3
AKG K240 Monitor	90	★★★★☆	Sep 91	Smooth and enjoyable but low end coloration slightly softens and slurs deep bass.	240	S/Open	6.3
AKG K401	100	★★★☆☆	Feb 98	Reasonably dynamic and expressive headphones. They're certainly worth an audition.	290	S/Closed	3.5/6.3
AKG K501	130	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	If you're a fan of bass-driven tracks the K501s are worth a listen.	235	Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K1000	500	★★★☆☆	Jul 93	Pleasing sense of space that doesn't give that in the head sound. Need a quality amp.	270	Open	6.3
Audio Technica ATH-910 Pro	80	★★☆☆☆	Feb 98	Average at best, they lack drive and punch and rock is distinctly undramatic.	205	Closed	6.3
Audio Technica ATH-M40FS	99	★★★★☆	Jun 97	'Studio' headphones with an excellent balance across a wide range of music.	250	Closed	6.3
Beyer DT131	30	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Easygoing, lightweight and comfy and they pack a punch despite low volume.	130	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT75	35	★★★★★	Nov 00	Light and comfortable and blend terrific sweetness with good, open, impressive imaging.	120	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT231 Galactic	45	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Delivers music with confidence and dynamic agility.	130	Closed	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 331	70	★★★☆☆	Jul 96	Sound surprisingly flat. Comfortable enough to prevent fatigue over longterm listening.	240	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer RSS433.2	80	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Wireless - if you like some depth to your sounds, you might want to look elsewhere.	230	Closed	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 431	80	★★★★☆	Feb 95	Firmly in the top deck, but the sound is not gutsy enough to do justice to all music.	210	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 531	100	★★★★☆	Dec 96	Crisp, airy, open sound. and they can lay down a big beat when called upon to do so.	240	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 831	120	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	Handle busy mixes with ease but trade timing for detail.	295	Closed	3.5/6.3
Grado SR60	79	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Sound as distinctive as they look.	200	Open	3.5/6.3
Grado SR80	100	★★★★★	Feb 98	Truly wonderful headphones, they may not look it but these headphones are special.	200	Open	3.5/6.3
Grado SR125	150	★★★★☆	Nov 99	Deserve high praise for their sound - only their lack of comfort counts against them.	140	Open	6.3
Grado SR225	200	★★★★☆	Jul 98	Look basic but they amaze with their power and presence. These Grados are hard to beat.	200	Open	6.3
Grado RS1	695	★★★★★	Apr 98	Earth-movingly good, these wooden 'phones draw you right into the heart of music.	255	Open	6.3
HMV HM 7035	10	★★★★☆	Aug 97	Odd shape, but produce a satisfying bass and clear imaging of the mix. Tested as HM7061.	15	Closed	3.5/6.3
JKoss PortaPro KP-PP1	45	★★★☆☆	Feb 95	Designed for portability they make a good upgrade from those supplied with personals.	59	Open	3.5/6.3
Philips HP890	70	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Substantial, with vast velvet padded ear-shells but they sound rather average.	330	Closed	3.5/6.3
Philips HC8900	140	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Wireless surround headphones - sound impressive, though pricey.	280	Closed	3.5/6.3
Ross dB	20	★★★☆☆	Apr 00	Extraordinarily punchy and revealing delivery - useful for travel as they fold up.	160	Closed	3.5/6.3
Ross RCB400	20	★★★☆☆	Feb 99	A fine, full sound well controlled down to the lower registers but can sound a bit woolly.	216	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser MX500 (in-ear)	20	★★★★★	Jan 01	Much better bass, imaging and tonal purity over freebie in-ears. Funky little carry case.	N/A	in-ear	3.5
Sennheiser HD 433	20	★★★☆☆	Aug 97	OK for the price but no more, being all bass and treble with nothing much inbetween.	115	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 490	50	★★☆☆☆	Apr 00	Comfy but the refined, yet overly-polite and rather distant sound simply fails to engage.	140	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD-495 Silver	60	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Great styling and enjoyable sonics. Not a pair of superstar cans but still worth a listen.	140	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD-500	70	★★★★☆	Jan 99	Comfortable with sensible styling and the sound quality is well up to the mark.	210	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser RS 45	80	★★☆☆☆	Oct 01	Wireless headphones - sound tinny and insubstantial, regardless of what you feed them.	160	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 270	80	★★★★☆	Nov 00	If you want to lock yourself away these circumaural phones are for you.	220	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 570 Symphony	90	★★★★☆	Nov 99	Near-perfect performance at a very affordable price. Will sit comfortably on most heads.	210	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HDC 451	130	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Look the business and we love the technology used to reduce background noise.	110	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 250II	150	★★★★☆	Apr 92	Bring a sense of realism and natural rhythm to a sound that draws you in.	215	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 580 Precision	200	★★★☆☆	Dec 93	Indulge you with an exact and detailed sound that relays every part of a performance.	260	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD-600	250	★★★★★	Oct 97	Open, revealing, neutral and dynamic. Costly, but worth it for major headphone users.	260	Open	3.5/6.3
Sony MDR-V700DJ	100	★★★☆☆	Nov 99	Ooze with hi-tech elegance but they fail to hack it on sound.	320	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sony MDR-CD780	100	★★★★☆	Oct 01	A whole lot of cans for your cash - make the most of less powerful kit.	300	Closed	3.5/6.3
Vivanco Air Space SR 222S	30	★★★★☆	Apr 00	Vivacious and airy sound, enjoying a full, weighty bass and highly revealing treble.	252	Open	3.5/6.3
Vivanco Cyberwave FMH3000	30	★★★☆☆	Apr 97	No infrared 'phones can deliver the freedom of these FM designs. But sound is muffled.	233	Closed	3.5/6.3
Vivanco SR210	30	★★★★☆	Jan 01	Respectable bass and they convey instruments with an airy feel.	N/A	Open	3.5/6.3
Vivanco SR606	40	★★★★☆	Dec 93	Well built. Open and involving midrange, throws out bass rhythms in a confident fashion.	225	S/Open	3.5/6.3
Vivanco SR650	40	★★★★☆	Jul 96	Great for rock and dance, but artificial-sounding with natural recordings.	175	S/Open	3.5/6.3
Vivanco SR750	50	★★★★☆	Feb 98	Unimpressive in appearance but comfortable enough. Offer a well-rounded performance.	180	S/Open	3.5/6.3
Vivanco FMH 7780	70	★★★☆☆	Nov 00	Capable cordless units with classy looks and a lively sound, if a tad hard-edged.	N/A	Closed	6.3
Vivanco SR 950	80	★★★★☆	Oct 00	We've rarely tested a pair of cans that are so comfortable and they perform well too.	252	S/Open	3.5/6.3
Vivanco FMH8080	100	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Wireless cans that offer sturdy sound and good bass but they are no better than average.	260	Closed	3.5/6.3

ACCESSORIES

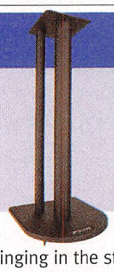
Up to £150/m Video Cables

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS			
				LENGTH	MATERIALS	TYPE	DIRECTIONAL
Profigold PGV 6602 S-Video	15	★★★★★ Aug 00	Decent performance - at this price it's a steal.	1.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No
Profigold PGV7393	40	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	Uninspiring but still a major step up from the freebie Scart slung in with your DVD.	3.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
QED Squart 4110 (RGB)	50	★★★★★ Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Video-only, the best picture quality of all those tested.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
True Colours Ind Taipan S-Video	55	★★★★★ Aug 00	Sensibly priced, very capable cable.	1.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No
True Colours Ind Taipan Scart	80	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Pricey but a very fine cable indeed.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Vivanco ProWire S-Video	25	★★★★☆ Mar 99	Good performance with well-detailed images.	5.00	Cp	Sv	No
Vivanco Prowire Digital	40	★★★★☆ Mar 99	Reveals plenty of punch and detail - fine pictures	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No

Speaker stands Best Buys

Best Buys up to £60

1 **Atacama Nexus 6** £50
2 **Alphason Akros 1** £49
3 **Apollo A1** £43



Best Buys £60+

1 **Partington Dreadnought** £100
2 **Atacama R724** £150
3 **Kudos S50** £115 4 **Apollo Olympus** £75

KEY: Height The height in cms of the review samples, or usually the maximum where a stand is available in a range of sizes. Choose one that gets your speakers' treble drivers up to ear level for the best sound
Material Metal is usual, but can need damping to avoid ringing in the structure (see our 'Fillable' column). M=METAL; W=WOOD/MDF; O=OTHER
Colour BK = BLACK; S = SILVER; N = NATURAL; O=OTHER
Fillable Sand or lead shot can be used to damp vibrations
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

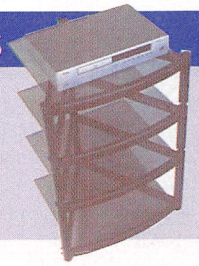
Up to £150

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS			
				HEIGHT	MATERIALS	COLOUR	FILLABLE
Alphason Akros I (Cable Tidy)	49	★★★★☆ Sep 99	Smart-looking stands that enable music to sound weighty and well focused.	45/60	Metal	S	Yes
Alphason Akros II (Cable Tidy)	65	★★★☆☆ Dec 00	Mixed results - convey good midrange detail but lack weight at low frequencies.	45/60	Metal	S	Yes
Apollo A1	40	★★★★☆ Feb 99	Effective, if a little crude, being reasonably weighty and very rigid.	40-90	Metal	4	Yes
Apollo A2/5	55	★★★☆☆ Aug 98	Simple and affordable, they do a decent enough job in an entry-level system.	50	Metal	4	Yes
Apollo Olympus	80	★★★★★ Dec 96	Good looking; rock steady platform lets speakers enjoy sharper focus and tighter bass.	16-24	Metal	4	Yes
Apollo AZ range	95	★★★★☆ Aug 96	Make music strong, vibrant. Bass weight and timing excellent. Best in larger rooms.	38-61	Metal	4	Yes
Atacama Nexus 6	50	★★★★★ Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. For build, price and sonic balance these are a steal.	60	Metal	3	Yes
Atacama SE24	75	★★★★★ Aug 95	Highly Recommended in the 1997 Awards. They're unbettered at the price.	61	Metal	3	Yes
Atacama R724	150	★★★★★ Dec 98	Can turn a mediocre speaker into something special and make a special speaker sing.	60	Metal	3	Yes
B-Tech BT10	35	★★☆☆☆ Feb 99	These stands are horrible: the top-plate's too small, they're too light and they wobble.	66-129	Metal	3	No
Ixos Deadrock 903	60	★★★☆☆ Aug 98	Performance is reasonably well balanced but overall they sound a touch lifeless.	60	Resin	Bk	No
Kudos S50	115	★★★★★ Aug 98	Highly Recommended in the 1998 Awards. Top of the £100 league for performance.	46/61	Metal	Bk	Yes
Partington Dreadnought	100	★★★★★ Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. So special we'd happily live with their industrial looks.	60	Metal	Bk	Yes

Equipment racks Best Buys

up to £300

1 **Atacama Equinox** £280
2 **Soundstyle XS105** £300
3 **Optimum Opt 5500** £299
4 **Custom Designs Aspect 850** £300



£300+

1 **Henley Designs Saturn 5** £319

KEY: Height The height in cms of the review samples, or usually the maximum where available in a range of sizes
Size The maximum dimensions of the shelves, in cm – width and depth (ie front to back)
No of Shelves The number of shelves you get. Most racks come in a variety of configurations, at various prices
Shelf material G = GLASS; W = WOOD/MDF; ST = STEEL; O = OTHER
Colour Number of frame colours available
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £600

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS					
				HEIGHT	SIZE	NO OF SHELVES	SHELF MATERIAL	COLOUR	
Idenkamp Roma	560	★★★☆☆ Awd 01	Wonderfully stylish AV rack in green Italian glass - designed to take a TV.	80	46/38	2	Gl	Gn	
Alphason AP-CH46/5	189	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Ensures that bass has plenty of weight.	79	46x33	5	G	5	
Atacama Equinox	280	★★★★★ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. A class act, and excellent value for money.	90	50/50	4	G	2	
Custom Design e'lite E5	280	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	It's good, with the distance between shelves adjustable, but it's not great.	66	37/47	5	G	6	
Custom Design Aspect 850	320	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Helps deliver tonal evenness and clarity.	85	46/36	5	G	4	
Henley Designs Saturn 5	319	★★★★☆ Oct 01	First-rate stand that looks good, too. Combines the benefits of wood with glass.	83	46/41	5	G	2	
Optimum OPT 4906	220	★★★★☆ Sep 99	Looks good, sounds good and is reasonably priced.	79	61/46	4	G	6	
Optimum OPT 5000	330	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Sturdy and provides sharp focus and imaging.	79	61/52	5	W/St	6	
Optimum OPT 5500	330	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Excellent design that's stable and simple looking.	81	61/52	5	W/St	6	
Sound Organisation Z545	170	★★★★☆ Feb 99	Sounds almost as good as it looks.	70	50/40	4	G	2	
Soundstyle XS105	320	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Fine rack, revealing great dynamics and a tight and powerful bottom end.	87	60/42	5	G	5	
Spectral A/V CR05	410	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Helps convey sound with bags of speed and plenty of punch.	98	47/52	5	G	4	

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DIGITAL INTERCONNECTS BEST BUYS

Best Buys up to £50/m

1 **van den Hul Optocoupler** £50/m
2 **Profigold PGD481** £20/m
3 **Ecosse Reference Producer** £17.50/m
4 **Ixos 1051** £39.95/m

Best Buys £50/m+

1 **True Colours Industries Adder** £60/m
2 **Audioquest Optilink 1** £60/m
3 **Nordost Moonglow Silver Shadow** £335/m

KEY: Length The length of the test sample
Termination Phono connectors are the most common electrical digital termination, while Toslink plugs are usual for optical cables, but others are available. A=AES/EBU, T=Toslink, M=Optical Mini Jack, P=Phono, B=BNC

Material What are the conductors made from? Cp = copper; Sl = silver; G = glass, P = plastic , O = other
Type E = Electrical; O = optical

Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

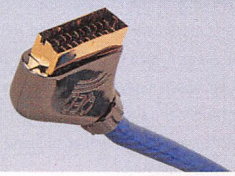
Up to £350/m

Product	£	Verdict	We said...	The facts	Length	Termination	Materials	Type	Directional
Audioquest Optilink 4	320	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Pricey way of transporting digital data, but it's one of the best we know.		1.0m	T	G	O	Yes
Chord Company Optichord	40	★★★★★ Mar 99	Delivers plenty of detail enhancing separation.		1.0m	T	P	O	No
Ecosse Reference Producer	19.99	★★★★★ Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. You won't get better for the money.		1.0m	P	Cp	E	No
Monster Lightspeed 100 Opt	49.95	★★★★☆ Mar 99	Will appeal to those who enjoy hard-hitting music.		1.0m	T/M	P	O	No
Profigold PGD481	19.99	★★★★★ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Dynamics are particularly impressive for the price.		1.0	P	Cp	E	No
QED Qnect OT	30	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Good value - the presentation is smooth without being boring.		1.0	T	G	O	No
SonicLink SG Light	40	★★★★★ Oct 01	Clear advantages over budget cables - better dynamics and extra resolution.		1.0	P	SC	E	No
van den Hul Optocoupler	50	★★★★★ Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. One of the best optical links we've heard.		1.0m	T	Cp	O	No
van den Hul Digital First	140	★★★★☆ Mar 99	Obvious selection for those with high-end systems.		1.0m	P	CF	E	Yes

VIDEO CABLES BEST BUYS

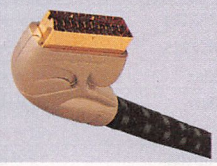
up to £50/m

1 **QED Sqart** £50/m
2 **Ixos 130AV** £50/m
3 **Straightwire Scart** £40/m
4 **Vivanco ProWire** £40/m



Best Buys £50/m+

1 **Audioquest Scart Type S4** £75/m
2 **True Colours Taipan Scart** £80/m
3 **True Colours S-Video** £55/m
4 **Nordost Optix Super-S** £160/m



KEY: Length Although 1m is the most common length for interconnects, here we show the length of the test sample
Material What are the conductors made from? Cp = copper; Sl = silver; CF = carbon fibre, O = other
Type A variety of video connectors are available, including Sv = s-video; Sc = scart; P = phono. This column shows the plugs in output to input order – eg 'Sv-Sc' would be a cable to hook a DVD player's S-video output to a TV set's Scart input.

Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £150/m

Product	£	Verdict	We said...	The facts	Length	Materials	Type	Directional
Audioquest CinemaQuest S-1	65	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Excellent images with strong contrasts.		1.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No
Audioquest Scart Type T4	75	★★★★★ Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Stylish green livery, detailed and full sound.		1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	Yes
Chord Company S-Video	118	★★★★☆ Mar 99	Detail and colour are good, contrast is solid.		7.00	Cp	Sv	No
Hama 43535	6.99	★★★★★ Mar 99	Offers better bass presence than freebies and images have extra sharpness.		2.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Ixos 126 AV Mallard Scart	35	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Sounds good enough - a solid buy at this price.		0.75	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Ixos 141/150	39.95	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Flat cable and flat sockets - does a good job with sound with no audible loss of dynamics.		1.50	OFC	Sc-Sc	No
Ixos 130AV	50	★★★★★ Mar 99	An excellent buy delivering great bass energy.		3.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Lektropacks HCSL14	16	★★★★★ Mar 99	Great value - sounds good with bags of muscularity		1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Monster Super Video Three	59.95	★★★★★ Mar 99	Great cable and well worth the hefty price-tag.		1.00	Cp	Sv	No
Nordost Optix Video Super-S	160	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Expensive but fabulous with superb edge definition		2.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No

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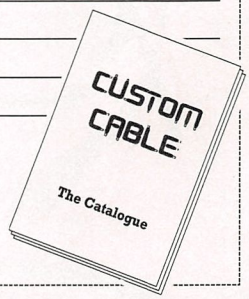

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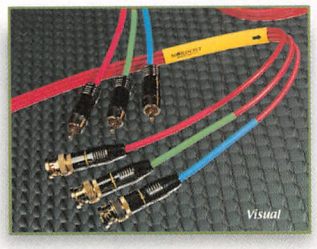
Up to £300/m Interconnects

Product	£	Verdict	We said...	The facts: Diameter	Termination	Materials	Type	Directional
Ixos 105 Digital	25	★★★★☆ Apr 94	A good upgrade from freebie digital leads. Music is projected in a clean and dynamic way.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos 1014 Gamma Audition II	30	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Big generous-sounding interconnect offering a good level of resolution.	1.0	P	Cp	MS	No
Ixos 1003 Spiral Braid	30	★★★☆☆ Mar 98	Unless you've a horribly bright, screaming system we'd give this one the old raspberry.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos Gamma 1002	40	★★★★★ Feb 99	Best Buy in the 1999 Awards. Good transparency, focus, detail and clarity.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Ixos 103 Crystal	45	★★★☆☆ Jun 96	Unsubtle interconnect that may help tame systems but can be unkind to lively combinations.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos 102 Master	60	★★★★★ Jan 97	Beautifully sweet sound is the reward for hooking up this green wire.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos Gamma 1001	70	★★★★☆ Oct 99	Good cable, with solid and weighty bass, although top-end sparkle is a bit lacking.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Ixos 1100 Gamma	100	★★★☆☆ Aug 01	Good, but if you like your music warm and welcoming there are better out there.	1.0m	P	Sc	MS	Yes
Ixos 101 Silver Bullet	100	★★★★☆ Jul 95	Gorgeously full, inviting sound. Rock and dance listeners will like its upbeat excitement.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Ixos 100 X03 Studio	150	★★★★☆ Dec 95	A well made cable with big bold sound and plenty of power and attack. Good for rockers.	0.6m	P	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Kimber PBJ (pair)	71	★★★★★ Oct 01	If you want wide ranging dynamics and rock-solid bass punch this is the cable for you.	1 m	P/X	Cp	MS	Yes
LAT International IC-50-D	42	★★★★★ Mar 96	Produces a spacious sound with an abundance of detail for the money.	1.0m	P/X	Cp	MS	No
LAT International IC-80	60	★★★★★ Jan 97	Say goodbye to dull sound. After a few hours the sound opens up to give plenty of clarity.	1.0m	P/X	Cp	MS	Yes
LAT International IC-100 Mk2	105	★★★★☆ Mar 98	Can deliver to your amp the sort of bass subwoofers love - fast, extended and exciting.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	S	Yes
LAT International IC-200 MkII	159	★★★☆☆ Oct 97	Fine levels of detail, resolution and bass but there's a fierce streak in its treble.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	S	Yes
Monster Interlink 300MkII	50	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Has much to offer and if used in the right system deliver bags of musicality.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Moth Leyline Black	100	★★★☆☆ Mar 98	A bit of a conundrum; sounds big and full, but soft and plummy in the midband and treble.	1.0m	P	Sl/Cp	S	Yes
Musical Fidelity NuVista 1.2	120	★★★★☆ Oct 99	Fast and rhythmic character with the ability to convey tight and punchy bass.	1.2	P	Sl	MS	No
Nordost Black Knight	60	★★★★★ Apr 97	Clean sounding with enhanced clarity, extended bandwidth and dynamic resolution.	1.0m	P/D/X	Cp	S	Yes
Nordost Solar Wind	85	★★★★★ Mar 98	Technically interesting and fine-sounding - this is one exciting cable.	1.0 m	P/D/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Nordost Blue Heaven	150	★★★★☆ Oct 99	Exciting and full of attack and drive but up-front sound won't suit everyone.	1.0m	P/D/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Nordost Red Dawn	300	★★★★☆ May 98	At this price it's one for high-end set-ups, but an exhilarating listen.	1.0m	P/D/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Precious Metals CopperTech Alpha	25	★★★★★ Sep 00	Best Buy in the 2000 Awards. Phenomenal value - performance that usually costs lots more.	1.0m	P	Al	S	No
Precious Metals Silver Signal 52	95	★★★★★ Oct 97	Highly listenable the focus on instruments within the wide open soundstage is fabulous.	1.0m	P/B/D	Sl/Cp	MS	No
Precious Metals Sl Signal 200	220	★★★☆☆ Jun 96	Smooth and easy-going, yet supremely detailed and packed with subtlety.	1.0m	P/B/D	Al	MS	No
Profigold PGA4201	15	★★★★☆ Aug 99	A safe bet in entry-level set ups but avoid partnering with already-bright kit.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Profigold PGA301	30	★★★★☆ Oct 96	Not easy to fit but will help to open sound out and please with their pursuit of detail.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Prowire PHC2215	11.99	★★★★☆ Awd 00	Good value and allows a weighty and powerful sound. A good step-up from the freebie wires.	1.5	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Prowire Teflex	30	★★★☆☆ Jul 98	Likable enough, giving a full rich sound which would suit many budget systems very well.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Prowire Silver	60	★★★★☆ May 98	Well-balanced sound suited to a wide variety of music and systems - a safe, sensible buy.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Puresonic 5050A	17	★★★★★ Mar 96	Brings music to life with bubbly vitality. The price makes this pure dead brilliant!	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Puresonic 6010A	22	★★★★☆ Jul 95	Plenty of life and clarity, giving rock music a fast, exciting sound.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Puresonic 3010A	25	★★★☆☆ Feb 99	Produces an exact sound; partnered with care, its distinctive character might be for you.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Puresonic 8010A	70	★★★★☆ Mar 96	Displays a sweetness of tone which can add pleasing warmth to simple, acoustic music.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Puresonic 9010A	75	★★★☆☆ Mar 96	Soundstage is broad and deep, but for the money you'd expect more dynamics.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
QED QUNEX One	20	★★★★★ Feb 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Staggeringly good value (was called Qnect 1)	1.0m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	No
QED QUNEX Two	30	★★★★★ Mar 98	Highly Recommended in the 1998 Awards. Weighty, peppy and involving (was Qnect).	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
QED QUNEX 4 Silver	60	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Classy looking cable that will handle whatever you throw at it with ease.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
QED QUNEX Silver Spiral	78	★★★★★ Oct 98	Highly Recommended in the 1998 Awards. Great value for money (was called Qnect)	0.5m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	No
Roksan HDC-02A	85	★★★★★ Sep 00	Truly excellent performer, boasting a wide range of sonic talents, at a fair price.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
SonicLink First Base	25	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Fine cable for the money and a definite audition if your budget is tight.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
SonicLink SG Voices	95	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Sounds pretty good with a presentation that majors on solidity.	1m	P/X	O	MS	No
Supra EFF-ISL (pair)	89.99	★★★☆☆ Aug 99	A costly yet unexciting source-to-amp connection.	0.75m	P	CS	MS	Yes
True Colours Industries Cobra	120	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Good for the money - detail levels are good and low frequencies are allowed full weight.	1.0m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	No
van den Hul Storm Gold	30	★★★★★ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Combines refinement, dynamics and resolution.	0.8m	P	Cp	MS	No
van den Hul PB5 Hybrid	50	★★★★★ Oct 99	Provide an impressively insightful performance, with neutral hi-fi, at a good price.	0.8m	P/X	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul Orange Source Hybrid	65	★★★★★ May 00	Wonderfully-balanced wire for the money - we recommend it without hesitation.	0.8m	P	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul D102 III HB	80	★★★★★ May 98	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Sounds smooth, natural and detailed.	0.8m	P/X	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul Thunderline	145	★★★★☆ Jan 97	Need warmth and weight? this is a copper/carbon/silver cable with powerful bass delivery.	1.0m	P/X	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul The First	240	★★★★★ Nov 93	Vividly detailed and an exceptionally natural sound.	1.0m	P	CF	MS	No
van den Hul The Second	275	★★★☆☆ Oct 96	A well-made cable, enjoyable but not remarkable at the price.	1.0m	P/X	CF	MS	No
van den Hul The First Ultimate	320	★★★★★ Sep 00	Stunning - if your system's good enough we can't recommend these interconnects too highly.	0.1m	P	CF	MS	No



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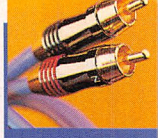

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UP TO £400/M SPEAKER CABLES

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS	DIAMETER	MATERIALS	TYPE	DIRECTIONAL
Kimber 8VS	17	★★★★★	Oct 01	Great sounding cable with no obvious flaws.		12mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Kimber 4PR (3 mt pr termin)	94	★★★★☆	May 98	Sounds controlled and muscular - ideal if your set-up needs more punch.		10mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Kimber 4VS (3 mt pr terminated)	118	★★★★☆	Jul 98	Great all-round cable which works a treat with any type of music.		7mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Musical Fidelity NuVista 3.0 (St Pr)	399	★★★☆☆	Oct 99	Thick cable which lets through details but can sound overly smooth.		25mm	Cp	MS	No
Nordost Flatline Gold MkII	9.5	★★★★★	May 98	Highly Recommended in 1998 Awards. Look no further for clarity and openness.		f	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Cinemaflex 14/4	13.95	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Detail retrieval is excellent.		8mm	CP/SL	MS	Yes
Nordost Superflat MkII Bi-Wire	18.95	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Fine cable in many ways - ideal if your system suffers from overbearing bass.		f0.6 mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Solar Wind	27.95	★★★★★	Jan 99	Fine separation and airy, open sound. A great cable, but pricey.		f	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
QED Silver Anniversay Biwire	8.5	★★★★★	Jul 01	Delivers open, fast and transparent sound - at the price, it's a terrific buy.		4x2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Profile 4x4	9	★★★★★	Apr 97	Incredibly good value cable, revealing clarity and depth of image that is stunning.		f2.2mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Profile Silver 12	15	★★★★☆	Oct 97	Demonstrates superlative resolution with an airy treble - tad tame for rockers.		f1.6mm	Sc	MS	No
QED Genesis	30	★★★★★	Aug 99	Costly cable option, but the Genesis performs so well it's certainly worth the money.		16.6mm	Sc	MS	No
SonicLink AST 200 BiWire	10	★★★★★	Feb 97	Great value for money and the pick of cables that we've heard at this price.		10mm	TC	MS	No
SonicLink Deliverance biwire	15	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Serves up music with a lively energy and loads of slam -top end can be unsubtle.		12mm	Cp	MS	No
SonicLink Silver Aero S300	18	★★★★★	Oct 97	Sounds superb with quality albums but is highly revealing of poor recordings.		9.1m	SC	MS	No
SonicLink Silver Aero S130x2	20	★★★☆☆	Aug 99	Fairly good sounding, and detailed cable but we'd expect a bit more flair for the price.		8.8mm	SC	MS	No
SonicLink Horizon	40	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Neither detail levels or finesse excel - we'd expect more for the money.		12mm	SC	MS	No
Tara Labs Prism Nexa	9.95	★★★★★	Aug 99	Does a great job with all types of music but don't use with bright-sounding electronics.		N/A	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Snowtrack Biwire	10	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Excellent grasp of detail and dynamics - can be soft in the treble.		f3.4mm	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul Royal Jade Hybrid	11	★★★☆☆	May 00	Not a bad cable and would tame down a brash set-up but it doesn't have all-round talents.		16.5mm	Cp	MS	No
van den Hul CS122	13.49	★★★★★	Oct 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Detail, solidity and punch.		f6.0mm	Cp	MS	No
van den Hul The Cleartrack	14.99	★★★☆☆	Apr 96	Ready (and willing) for biwiring, producing a performance that's slick and fleet of foot.		f4.2mm	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul D352 Hybrid	21	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Plenty of punch and attack without harshness. Just lacks that special sparkle.		21mm	Cp	MS	Yes

AUDIO INTERCONNECTS BEST BUYS

up to £55/m

1 **van den Hul Storm Gold** £30/m
2 **DNM Reson** £40/m
3 **Ecosse Reference CA-1** £55/m
4 **Precious Metals Coppertech Alpha** £25/m

Best Buys £55/m+

1 **van den Hul D102IIIHB** £80/m
2 **Ecosse Reference MA-2** £155/m
3 **Chord Chorus** £199/m
4 **Nordost Solar Wind** £85/m

KEY: Length Although 1m is the most common length for interconnects, here we show the length of the test sample
Termination Phono connectors, also known as RCAs or cinch plugs, are the most common interconnect termination, but others are available to suit various types of equipment. P = PHONO; D = DIN; B = BNC, X = XLR

Material What are the conductors made from? Cp = COPPER; Sl = SILVER; CF = CARBON FIBRE, O = OTHER
Type S = SOLID CORE; MS = MULTISTRANDED
Directional Some manufacturers indicate a direction on cables. Arrows indicate the output to input orientation
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £300/M

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS	DIAMETER	TERMINATION	MATERIALS	TYPE	DIRECTIONAL
Audio Note AN-C	60	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Basic presentation is very musical, but tonal flaws mean they aren't up to rivals.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Audioquest Diamondback	85	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Fine interconnect, communicating mid and treble frequencies with musicality.		1.0m	P	Cp	S	Yes
Cable Talk Monitor 3	50	★★★★★	Oct 99	Cracking cables which are fast and funky, allowing bags of attack and drive.		1.0m	P/D/B	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Broadcast 2	99.95	★★★★★	Jan 97	Such soundstaging and openness that friends will swear you've changed more than the cable.		1.0m	P/B/X/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Cambridge Audio Atlantic	10	★★★☆☆	Mar 96	Pocket money upgrade, worth considering if your system errs towards the over-bright.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Cambridge Audio Pacific	30	★★★★★	Mar 96	Worth every penny. Its detail and open expression are immediately attention-grabbing.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Cambridge Audio Silver Spirit 40	70	★★★★☆	Oct 98	Talented cable which in many ways is superb at the price. Take care with system matching.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Canare VPP OM9	9	★★★☆☆	Nov 93	Bright green leads which offer a colourful, but pleasantly easygoing sound.		0.9m	P	Cp	MS	No
Chord Company Calypso	30	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Fine upper bass punch and fluid midrange make this a solid buy.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Chrysalis	42	★★★☆☆	Feb 99	Highly Recommended in the 1997 Awards. Especially suitable if you're after bigger bass.		1.0m	P/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Cobra II	55	★★★★☆	Oct 97	Decent bass delivery and a detailed treble. Good separation between instruments.		1.0m	P/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Chameleon 2	90	★★★★★	Mar 98	Excellent real-world cable, both in physical and sonic terms. This is a superb buy.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Solid	120	★★★★☆	Mar 96	Most impressive; lets the information flow with finely-honed detail.		1.0m	P/D	Cp/Sl	S	No
Chord Company Chorus	199	★★★★★	May 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Terrifically deep bass, midrange taut and top end spacious.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Connections UK Ultra	28	★★★★★	Mar 96	Combines vivid clarity with lucid control. Conveys music with a crisp bite.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Connections UK Midas	39	★★★★★	Jan 97	Bass punch and a fast delivery make for an exciting sound.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
DNM Reson	40	★★★★★	Oct 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Combines smoothness with fine transparency.		1.0m	P	Cp	S	Yes
Ecosse The Composer	29	★★★★★	Aug 01	A stellar interconnect - the signal is so well preserved it's hard to believe the price.		0.8m	P	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Conductor (Reference CA-1)	55	★★★★★	Sep 00	Product of the Year Winner 2000. Allows all genres of music to sound their best.		0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Maestro (Reference MA2)	155	★★★★★	Oct 99	Best Buy in the 2000 Awards. Sonically they amaze - high-end system owners take note.		0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Insert Audio Focus 1.2 (pair)	21	★★★★☆	Oct 98	A step up from 'freebie' cables - dynamic and fast, it is ideal for hard-hitting music.		1.0m	P/B/X	Cp	MS	Yes
Insert Audio IC100 Mk II (pair)	29.95	★★★★☆	Jan 99	Good, affordable interconnect that helps produce an exciting, raw and enjoyable sound.		1.0m	P/B/X	Cp	MS	Yes
Insert Audio Status 3.4 (pair)	159.95	★★★☆☆	Sep 00	Physically lacks the class one would expect at this price and proves disappointing in use.		1.0m	P/B/X	Sl	MS	Yes
Ixos 104 Custom	20	★★★★★	Feb 93	On budget CD players it gives a richer, more transparent and better focused sound.		1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes

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ACCESSORIES

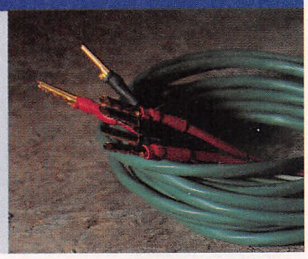
SPEAKER CABLES BEST BUYS

up to £10/m

1 **QED Silver Anniversary** £5/m (shown)
2 **Ecosse CS2.3** £3.85/m
3 **Chord Company Carnival** £2.99/m
4 **Ixos 6006 Gamma** £5/m

£10/m+

1 **Nordost Cinemaflex** £31.95/m
2 **van den Hul CS122** £13.50/m
3 **Ecosse Reference MS2.3** £22/m
4 **Nordost Solar Wind** £27.95/m
5 **Monster Z2R** £22/m



KEY: Diameter This figure is given in millimetres. Where a cable is of a 'flat' construction, rather than circular in cross-section, we indicate its depth. So '10' means the cable is 1cm in diameter, while 'f4' means a 4mm deep flat cable
Materials Almost all cables have cores made of metal, and copper of varying degrees of purity is the most common material employed. We indicate this as:
CP = COPPER; SL = SILVER; CF = CARBON FIBRE, O = OTHER
Type S = SOLID CORE; MS = MULTISTRANDED
Directional Some manufacturers indicate a direction on cables. Arrows indicate the output to input orientation
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

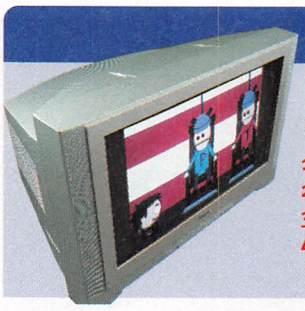
UP TO £9/M

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS			
					DIAMETER	MATERIALS	TYPE	DIRECTIONAL
Audioquest Type 4	6	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Smooth and refined presentation - ideal to help soften aggressive systems.	0.8mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Bandridge LC-7253	2	★★★☆☆	Feb 94	Flexible, rugged with taut bass, controlled treble. Frequency extremes not sharply etched.	2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
Bandridge LC-21544	3	★★★★☆	May 95	Dance and pop music sounds lively and energetic but could sound just too enthusiastic.	f1.5	Cp	MS	No
Cable Talk Talk 3.1	2.5	★★★★★	Feb 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Excellent clarity for a bargain price.	f5.0mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Talk 4.1	4.5	★★★★☆	Apr 97	Extremely capable cable with a good degree of openness and detail.	f5.0mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Flat 2	5	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Tonally a touch bright but still impressively punchy and alive. Works well with rock.	f2.5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Carnival	2.99	★★★★★	Feb 99	Upfront, detailed sound with a full bass, vibrant treble and excellent detail.	7.5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
DNM Reson MkII	6.95	★★★★★	May 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 - offers a complete blend of smoothness, power and excitement.	f	Cp	S	Yes
Ecosse Reference CS-2.2	2.6	★★★★☆	Oct 98	Great value cable with good clarity and dynamics. Don't use in an already bright system.	7.4mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Reference CS-2.3	3.85	★★★★★	Oct 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Ensures bass is taut and imaging is top-notch.	8.2mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Reference CS-4.2 bi-wire	5.25	★★★★☆	Jan 99	A rocker's cable, giving a great deal of detail - even if upper frequencies are edgy.	9.5mm	Cp	MS	No
Gale Electronics XL160-2	2.49	★★★★☆	Oct 95	Better than it looks, being a biwire cable with a lean, tight bass and an open sound.	f	Cp	MS	No
Ixos 603 Superstrand	1.99	★★★☆☆	Feb 95	Inexpensive way of getting up and running. But sound can be unexciting and thin.	4mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos 607 Low Profile	1.99	★★★★★	VT Jan 97	Sounds clear, crisp and energetic and it is a doddle to hide this self-adhesive cable.	f1.5mm	Cp	MS	No
Ixos 6007	2	★★★★☆	Oct 00	Twisted braid construction - performs well for the money but needs more midrange detail.	3mm	Cp	MS	No
Ixos 6003 Gamma Series	2.99	★★★★★	Feb 99	Highly Recommended in the 1997 Awards. Superb wide-open-sounding wire.	2x2.6mm	Cp	MS	No
Ixos 605 Iscopic	2.99	★★★☆☆	Apr 96	Ample bass and a healthy, detailed image. A touch too soft for some systems.	4mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos 604 Bi-wire	4.99	★★★☆☆	Aug 94	Special biwire cables. Bass is rich, warm and plentiful, but might overwhelm.	8mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos 6006 Gamma Series	5	★★★★★	Aug 99	Impresses with its rhythm and fine dynamics. Makes a canny upgrade from entry-level wire.	2x2.6mm	Cp	MS	No
Linn K20	4	★★★☆☆	Feb 95	Stranded cable with balanced sound. Tight bass, open midrange and detailed treble.	f4mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Naim NACA5	6.6	★★★★☆	Feb 94	Powerful, controlled bass and detailed, convincing mid and treble. Superb dynamics.	f	Cp	MS	Yes
Origin Live Soli-core super	6.6	★★★★☆	Feb 94	Stiff, bulky cable best suited to biwiring. Good instrumental separation and detailing.	15mm	Cp	S	Yes
Ortofon SPK.100	3	★★★☆☆	Dec 92	Flat, thin cable; easy to hide. Bass less powerful, detailed but insubstantial treble.	f	Cp	MS	Yes
Ortofon SPK.200	5	★★★☆☆	Feb 94	Well projected midrange and treble gives sound a spacious, airy quality.	f	Cp	MS	Yes
Profigold LC-8158	2	★★★★☆	Jun 96	Easy-going with a balanced tone and wallet-friendly price. Tested as Bandridge cable.	10mm	Cp	MS	No
Profigold LC 8258	5	★★★☆☆	Oct 00	Fast and punchy down low and conveys plenty of texture too, but others sound more natural.	13mm	Cp	MS	No
Puresonic 7825	7	★★★★☆	May 98	Can lack drive though this may suit harsher set-ups.	2x6mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Original	2.5	★★★★★	Apr 96	Best Buy in the Awards 1995. Bass is deep, control beyond question - was called Qudos.	2x2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Micro Bi-wire	3	★★★★☆	Awd 00	Competitively priced, ideal for discreet installations. Delivers a fine amount of detail.	4x1.25mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Original Mk II Bi-Wire	4.85	★★★★★	Oct 00	Truly excellent levels of detail and spaciousness make this cable a winner.	4x2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Silver Anniversary	5	★★★★★	May 98	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Fabulous, insightful and involving.	2x2.5mm	Sc	MS	No
Rega Speaker Cable	1.98	★★★★☆	Apr 96	Thin, unobtrusive and eminently affordable, a sound choice for first-time buyers.	2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
SonicLink AST 75x2	5	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Biwired cable with good separation. Instruments are presented clearly; tireless sound.	7.8mm	TC	MS	No
SonicLink AST 200	6	★★★★★	May 98	A remarkably expressive listen: full of energy, it gives powerful and well-developed bass.	8.0mm	TC	MS	No
Straightwire Waveguide 1.5	1.75	★★★★☆	Feb 99	A straightforward, unfussy buy, with excellent bass, great detail and good separation.	7mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Straightwire Rhythm (biwire)	6	★★★★☆	Jul 98	With impressive clarity and dynamics this biwire cable lives up to its name.	9mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Tech + Link SPC42/3	1.75	★★★★☆	May 98	Good bass and imaging make this cable a fine starter cable for modest systems.	f	Cp	MS	No
Tech + Link OFC79	1.8	★★★☆☆	Apr 96	A good value cable upgrade but don't expect barn-storming performance.	2x4mm	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Skytrack 98	5.99	★★★☆☆	May 98	Useful if your system suffers from sibilance but overall something of a disappointment.	f3.4	Cp	MS	No
van den Hul The Clearwater	7.99	★★★★☆	Dec 92	Expensive looks, but its sharply etched sound can make music seem uninvolving.	f4.0mm	Cp	MS	Yes

UP TO £400/M SPEAKER CABLES

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS			
Chord Company Legend Bi-wire	15	★★★★☆	Feb 97	Doesn't suit bass-light systems. Worthwhile if you like your music with plenty of treble.	f	Cp	MS	No
Chord Company Rumour 4 Core	19.9	★★★★★	Jul 01	Not only looks good, it's a dynamic performer, too.	9mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Ecosse ES-2.3	13.49	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Dynamics are vivid and help this cable grab the attention like few others.	9.5mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse ES2.3/CS2.15 biwire	19	★★★★★	Jul 01	A combination of two cables that sound stunning.	10x20mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Reference MS-2.3	23	★★★★★	Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Communicates a room-filling sound that few cables manage.	8.2mm	Cp	MS	No

TELEVISIONS BEST BUYS

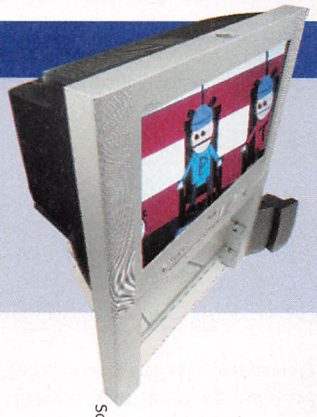


up to £1200

1 **Philips 28PW6305** £530
2 **Hitachi C32WF727N** £1200
3 **Toshiba 32WD98B** £1200
4 **Panasonic TX-32PL10** £1100

over £1200

1 **Philips 32PW9536** £1500
2 **Hitachi C36WP910TAN** £1900
3 **Panasonic TX-32PG50** £1400
4 **Sony KV-32FQ75** £1700



KEY: Type of TV W indicates 16:9 widescreen, F that it's a projector and B that it's an all-in oneback projection set
Screen size Measured diagonally across the screen, and given to the nearest inch
System For projectors, and given as C for a cathode ray tube model, LCD for a liquid crystal model or O for other

Power Stereo sets only quote 'front' power ratings, while surround sets offer additional 'centre' and 'rear' ratings
Features P=PRO-LOGIC, 2=PROLOGIC II, D=DOLBY DIGITAL, S=DTS, T=THX, X=DD EX, E=DTS ES
Scart sockets Audio/video inputs. The more the better
winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £6000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS					
					TYPE	SCREEN SIZE	SYSTEM	POWER	FEATURES	SCART SOCKETS
Bush DVD760 TV	799	★★★★☆	Sep 01	DVD and television in one - appeals on price but separates would give better performance.	W	32	CRT	2x8	-	2
Fujitsu PDS4229E	5640	★★★★★	Awd 01	The most tempting plasma product we've seen - no TV as with most plasma displays.	W	42	PLA	No	-	0
Hitachi C32WF727N	1200	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Sensibly priced, stylish and well equipped. Very impressive picture.	W	32	CRT	15/-/-	-	2
Hitachi C32WF810N	1300	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Packed full of features and produces a great picture, but sound lacks a little weight.	W	32	CRT	100	D/S	2
Hitachi C36WF830N	1900	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Terrifically attractive picture and great surround sound.	W	36	CRT	100	D/S	2
Hitachi CL43WP910TAN	2600	★★★★★	Aug 01	Great big TV with a great big sound, and fantastic picture quality too.	B	43	CRT	15/15/15	D/S	3
JVC AV-32L5EKGY	1500	★★★☆☆	Nov 01	Stylish addition to a home cinema system, but picture and sound quality let it down.	W	32	CRT	20/-/-	-	2
Panasonic TX-32PL10	1100	★★★★★	Nov 01	Stunning picture makes it a great centrepiece for a home cinema system.	W	32	CRT	7	-	2
Panasonic TX-32PG50	1400	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Slim body and narrow screen border, ideal where space is tight. Sound has its limits.	W	32	CRT	10/8/8	D/S	3
Panasonic TX-32PB50	1599	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Great picture but as an all-in-one solution it fails to light our fire.	W	32	CRT	10/8/8	D/S	3
Philips 28PW6305	530	★★★★★	Sep 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Solid picture and sound quality.	W	28	CRT	2x8	-	2
Philips 32PW9536	1500	★★★★★	Jan 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Sonically it is very impressive indeed.	W	32	CRT	20/12/20	P	3
Philips 32PW9616	1600	★★★★★	Jul 01	Not just a good-looker, picture resolution is excellent and sound quality clear.	W	32	CRT	N/A	D	4
Sanyo PLV-30	1995	★★★★★	Awd 01	LCD projector - viable alternative to the big-screen TV and capable of a far bigger image.	F	200	LCD	1	-	0
Sony KV-28LS35E	850	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Flat screen, albeit at a price, but sonically it's rather underwhelming.	W	28	CRT	2x8	-	2
Sony KV-32FQ75	1700	★★★★☆	Jan 01	Excellent picture is up with the best, but sound is lightweight although still capable.	W	32	CRT	10/-/-	-	3
Thomson Scenium 32 WT 45US	1400	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Telly with a DVD player in it - well-executed idea but it lacks Dolby Digital..	W	32	CRT	10+20	P	3
Toshiba 32ZD09B	1500	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Sonically impressive and a great picture from DVD video, but off-air images disappoint.	W	32	CRT	N/A	D	3
Toshiba 36ZP18P	2000	★★★★★	Nov 01	Best home cinema TV we've seen, offering fantastic pictures plus outstanding TV audio.	W	36	CRT	N/A	D	3
Toshiba TLP-MT7	4000	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Very good projector in terms of size and convenience - fine picture for the price.	F	250	LCD	2	-	0

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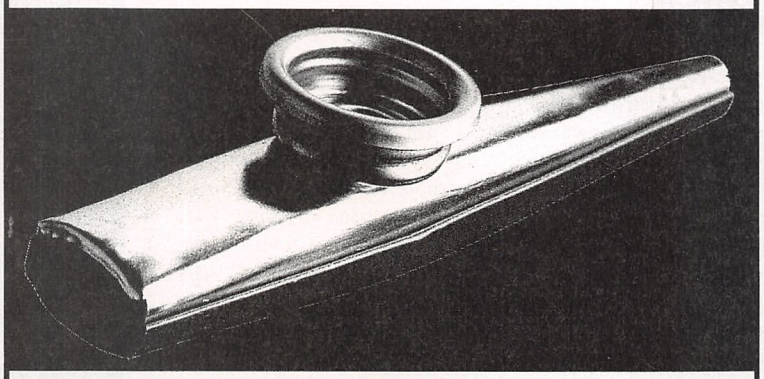
KEEP IT SIMPLE



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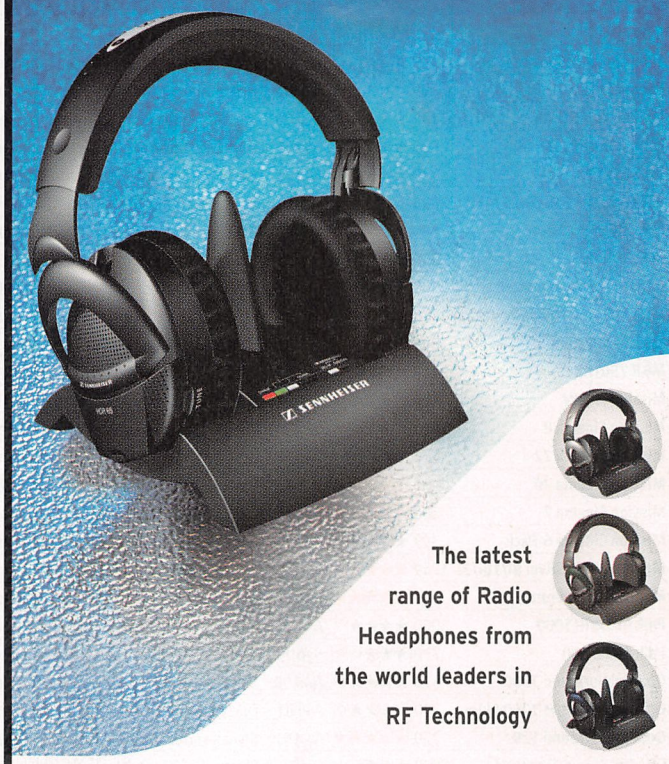

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UP TO £5000 SURROUND SPEAKER PACKAGES

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS	POWER RATING	MIN SENSITIVITY	MIN IMPEDENCE	FINISHES
Eltax Linear Response 5.1	499	★★☆☆☆	Aug 01	Visually attractive but sonically unappealing - lacks poise and composure.	150/80/60	89/89/89	6/6/6	Bch
Energy Take 5	599	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Offers far more than its size suggests.	100/100/100	88/88/88	8/8/8	Bk
Jamo D 830PDD	3100	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Most of the virtues of top-quality home cinema, and it sounds great with music too.	120/110/150	90/91/90	4/4/6	Ch
Jamo A330 PDD.3	575	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Largely competent with decent sound at low volume levels, but rival do it better.	75/75/75/A100	90/90/90	6/6/6	15
JBL SCS175	430	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Looks the part but it lacks verve and excitement.	100/100/100/A110	86/88/86	8/8/8	2
KEF TDM 23F/23C/34DS/45B	2695	★★★★★	Feb 99	Bags of bass and drive means they get close to real cinema sound.	200/200/150	90/90/88	4/4/4	Bk
KEF QAV55 Package	850	★★★★★	Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Truly impressive whatever the medium.	150/100/100	91/91/90	8/8/8	3
KEF KHT 2005	800	★★★★★	Jun 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Best sub/sat system you can buy under £1000.	100/100/100	88/88/88	8/8/8	Sl
Klipsch Synergy Quintet	700	★★★★☆	May 01	First and foremost for movies and it fulfils that role well. Slips up a little in stereo.	200/200/200	90/90/90	8/8/8	2
M&K L/C/R 55/MX700 package	2270	★★★★☆	Feb 99	Plays things tight and fast and deliver with straight stereo, too.	200/200/200	89/89/89	4/4/4	Bk
M&K K-3 System	1895	★★★★★	Sep 01	Fine dynamics and energy with movies and music. Impressive from units so small.	200/200/200/A75	-/-/-	4/4/8	2
M&K 750THX	2715	★★★★★	Jun 99	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Absolutely stunning home cinema performance.	200/200/200	N/A	4/4/8	Bk
Mission fs2-AV	800	★★★★★	May 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Five NXT satellite speakers and a sub - sensational.	75/75/75	86/86/86	8/8/8	Ne
Mission Cinema 8	1400	★★★★★	Jun 01	Wonderfully cohesive, compact and elegant. Plays all forms of music with verve.	200/200/150	89/87/87	8/8/8	3
Mission Cinema 72	400	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Brilliant and affordable surround system.	100/100/100	89/87/89	8/8/8	2
Mission Cinema 70	480	★★★★★	Jul 00	Product of the Year Winner 2000. Outstanding for both movies and music.	100/75/75	89/87/90	8/8/8	Bk
Mission Cinema 7	800	★★★★★	Oct 99	Product of the Year in the 1999 Awards. Great value and easy to live with.	130/130/75	88/88/90	8/8/8	3
Mission Cinema 6-Pack	399	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Good value, but for the dual-role of home cinema and hi-fi this combo is compromised.	50/50/100/A100	89/89/89	8/8/8	Bk
Monitor Audio Silver 8i/10i/3i	1249	★★★★★	Jun 01	For extension and dynamics this package has few peers at its price.	175/80/80	90/89/88	8/6/8	4
Monitor Audio Bronze AV1	750	★★★★★	Jul 01	Quite sensational, as good with movies as with music. Delivers power and fun aplenty.	80/120/80/A120	89/91/89	6/8/6	3
Polk Audio RT5000	5000	★★★★☆	Awd 99	Impressively, albeit a pricey, well-developed package with colossal bass.	500	92/92/90	8	Rw
Polk Audio R40	770	★★★☆☆	Sep 00	Well integrated but can sound coarse - especially when it's playing music in stereo.	150/100/100	90/89/89	8/8/8	Bk
Quadral Surround 3000	570	★★★★☆	Awd 00	Solid and competitive package which looks good and works rather well.	75/75/75	87/87/87	8/8/8	Bk
Quadral Surround 1240 Aktiv	390	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Fine value for money, neat, yet not overly compromised sonically. Well worth a listen.	90/90/90/A40	90/90/90	8/8/8	2
Quadral Surround 120	220	★★★★★	Awd 01	Stylish surround sound for silly money; a real bargain.	90/90/90	86/86/86	8/8/8	Sl
Quadral Ascent Surround	1580	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Plenty of weight, but lacks the resolution to dig details out of movies or music.	120/115/100/A120	87/87/86	4/4/4	4
Ruark Acoustics Vita 100/200	1750	★★★★☆	Awd 01	Satellite/subwoofer system - strong all-round performance, but it is not exactly cheap.	100/100/100/A200	86/88/86	8/6/8	2
Sony SA-VE705 Pascal	500	★IIII	Aug 00	Maybe cute but steer well clear of the Pascal, unless you don't care about sound quality.	140/140/140	87/87/87	8/8/8	Al
Wharfedale Diamond Cinema	400	★★★★★	Sep 01	Fantastic solution with speakers that sound and look more expensive than their price.	100/100/100	86/88/86	6/6/6	2
Yamaha NS-P610	499	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Attractive package, but not as complete as it could be.	100/120/100/A70	88/91/88	6/6/6	Bk

HOME CINEMA IN A BOX BEST BUYS

up to £600

1 Yamaha HTiB-40 £500

Separates give the best sound quality – that's a fact – and this combination of Yamaha's RX-V420RDS receiver and NS-P220 speaker package is simply stunning.

over £600

1 Sony DAV-S500 £600

The latest version of Sony's one-box home cinema solution now comes with the added benefit of multichannel SACD, as well as a built-in tuner and DVD player. Fabulous.

2 Denon AVF-100 £1200

KEY: DVD Player Does it need a DVD player, or is one included?
Digital in Optical or coaxial digital sockets for connecting digital sources such as DVD and CD players
Power In the order left/right, centre, rear, subwoofer

Features Shows the processing and decoding modes
Speakers How many are provided? So 5+1 means it comes with five speakers and a subwoofer
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £5000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS	DVD PLAYER	DIGITAL IN	POWER	MODES	SPEAKERS
Bush DVDAV3K	299	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Good looker and is suitable for surround if you have very limited space.	Yes	2	10/10/10/A50	D	6
Daewoo DV-115	429	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Passable performance for the price but fails to astound.	Yes	2	37/30/30	D/S	6
Denon ADV-700	750	★★★★☆	Nov 01	DVD player, processor, amp and tuner all in one box. Blends style with good performance.	Yes	1	5x35	2/D/S	No
Denon AV-F100 (NXT spkrs)	1200	★★★★★	Mar 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. All-round combination of exquisite design and convenience.	Yes	2	25	DD,T	5+S
JVC TH-A9R	600	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Adequate for home cinema but far from great at the price.	Yes	0	20/20/20/A100	D/S	6
JVC CP100AL	700	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Impressive all-in-one entertainment system, though movies sound better than music.	Yes	0	5x50	D/S	Yes
LG DA-3520	400	★★☆☆☆	Nov 01	LG's all-in-one cuts too many quality corners in order to meet its bargain-basement price.	Yes	0	6x30	P/D/S	5+S
NAD L55/L75	1000	★★★★☆	Oct 01	DVD/CD player and receiver - scores on both style and function.	Yes	3	5x40	D,S	No
Nakamichi Soundspace 10	5000	★★★★☆	Awd 00	A system unlike any other - blends good looks with strong performance.	Yes	0	30x5	P	
Onkyo DRS2.0	949	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Distinctively styled one-box solution - turns out fine pictures and decent sound.	Yes	2	5x30	D/S	No
Pioneer NS-DV55	700	★★★★★	Oct 00	Product of the Year Winner 2000. All-in-one DVD systems don't come slicker than this.	Yes	3	40x5+65	DD	
Sony DAV-S500	599	★★★★★	Sep 01	Product of the year in the Awards 2001. Exciting listening and viewing experience.	Yes	1	35/35/35/A70	D/S	6
Technics SF-DV250	550	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Convenient five-disc DVD/CD changer, processor, amp, tuner and twin cassette system.	Yes	0	65/80/40	D	5
Technics SF-HDV600	550	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Shedloads of components for your money, but doesn't really deliver.	Yes	0	5x6	D	5
Yamaha VS-10	350	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Neat package designed to make home cinema simple. Just add a TV and DVD player.	No	2	25/40/25/A50	D/S	5+S
Yamaha HTiB 40	500	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Low cost route to rewarding home cinema sound.	No	3	5x65	D/S	6

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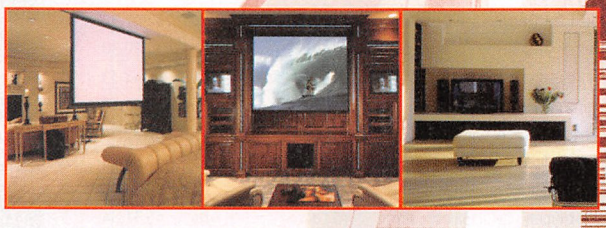

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UP TO £4000 SUBWOOFERS

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	Power Rating	Sensitivity	Impedence	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
Paradigm PS-1000	350	★★★★★ VTV Oct 96	Oodles of bass; easy to set up; value for money.	A130			No	43.44.49	Bk
Paradigm Servo 15	800	★★★★★ Oct 98	Huge sub which roars through action movies. Mighty muscle at an affordable price.	A400			No	53.46.56	Bk
psb Alpha Sub Zero	200	★★★☆☆ Oct 00	Reasonable for adding bass to home cinema set-ups, but steer clear for hi-fi use.	A50	-	-	No	34.24.35	Bk
REL Acoustics Q50	400	★★★★★ Oct 96	Highly recommended in the Awards 1996. Produces shuddering bass.	A50			No	42.40.43	Bk
REL Acoustics Q-150E	500	★★★★★ Aug 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Brilliant sound with movies and music.	A150	-	-	No	29.29.32	Bk
REL Acoustics Q100E	500	★★★★★ Aug 97	Highly Recommended in the 1998 Awards. Thoughtfully executed, impressively flexible.	A100			No	42.40.44	Bk
REL Acoustics Q200E	650	★★★★☆ Sep 99	A great choice for injecting some muscle into your system if space is at a premium.	A200	-	-	No	29.29.29	Bk
REL Acoustics Strata III	700	★★★★★ Jul 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. A subwoofer that gives music and movies a real boost.	A100			No	52.42.33	Bk
REL Acoustics Q201E	725	★★★★★ Feb 00	Better more musical sub than the Q200E - one of the best small subwoofers around.	A200	-	-	No	30.30.30	Bk
REL Acoustics Storm III	900	★★★★★ Mar 00	Certainly one of the best bass boxes you can buy for a serious music and movies set-up.	A150			No	65.42.33	Bk
REL Acoustics Q400E	1000	★★★★★ Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. It's not too big, but it sounds positively gigantic.	A400	-	-	No	39.39.40	Bk
REL Acoustics Studio II	4000	★★★★★ Apr 98	Subwoofer which looks like a gorgeous coffee table and sound superb too.	A300			No	62.69.54	Va
Ruark Acoustics Log-Rhythm	775	★★★★☆ Oct 99	Undoubtedly a pleasing music and movies sub, but its want of punch counts against it.	A100	-	-	No	42.43.43	Va
Sunfire Corp True Subwoofer	1715	★★★☆☆ Apr 98	Small sub with a 2,700w amp built in - enormous bass but it's more loud than tuneful.	A2700		-	No	28.28.28	Bk
Tsunami TS300 R/L/B	300	★★★★☆ Feb 01	Fast, fluid sound that works well with lots of speakers - extremely useful remote control.	A110	-	-	No	45.31.34	3
Tsunami TS210	350	★★★★☆ Oct 98	More weight and presence than the smaller TS200 but not as heavyweight as some rivals.	A150			No	55.31.34	Bk
Yamaha YST-SW320	350	★★★★★ Feb 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Good-looking and can thump out some serious bass.	A250			No	34.43.37	Bk
Yamaha YST-SW800	500	★★★★★ Oct 01	Remarkable new addition to the midprice subwoofer ranks - should be taken seriously.	A800	-	-	No	39.48.42	Bk

SURROUND SPEAKER PACKAGES BEST BUYS

up to £1000

1 **KEF KHT2005** £800
2 **Mission Cinema 72** £400
3 **Energy Take 5** £600
4 **Mission fs2** £800

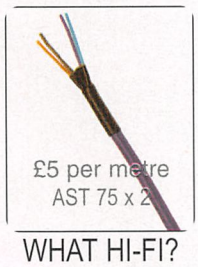
over £1000

1 **B&W CDM Series** £1900
2 **Dynaudio Audience 122** £1795
3 **KEF THX package** £2695
4 **M&K 750THX** £2715

KEY: Power rating The maximum power handling of the speakers, i n the order Left/right, centre, rear, subwoofer. A indicates that an active subwoofer is provided
Minimum sensitivity The higher the figure, the louder the speakers will sound at a given amplifier setting
Minimum impedance Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speakers are for an amplifier to drive
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £5000

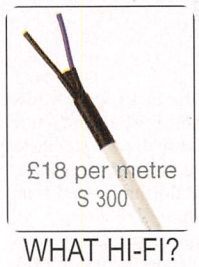
PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	Power Rating	Min Sensitivity	Min Impedence	Finishes
Acoustic Energy Package 4	499	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Punchy performance thanks to its substantial sub but a tad mechanical with music.	100/100/100/A150	88/88/87	6/6/6	2
Acoustic Energy Aegis 3/Centre/1	599	★★★★☆ Oct 99	We like this package a lot, it majors on big movie bass and crisp dialogue.	150/175/120	90/91/88.5	8/6/8	2
ALR/Jordan Entry 5.1 System	900	★★★★☆ May 01	Well thought out compact system, great with music - works well in most rooms.	50	87/87/87	8/8/8	2
B&W DM303/LCR3/ASW	860	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Good quality package in every sense, but not quite as living-room friendly as some.	100/100/100/A70	90/88/90	8/8/8	2
B&W CDM 1NT/CNT/SNT	1900	★★★★★ Jun 01	Sensational, well suited to its task. If you can find the funds, it's worth every penny.	120/120/120	88/91/90	8/8/8	3
Boston Acoustics Micro 9000	1000	★★★★☆ May 01	Highly competitive, beautifully made package that performs well in multichannel use.	125/125/100/A75	89/90/86	8/8/8	Bk
Boston Digital Theater 6000	499	★★★★☆ Aug 99	Incredibly compact speakers and active sub with digital surround decoder.	A100	-	-	Bk
Dali Suite 1.5	1576	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Solid, highly competent package that would suit a wide range of systems.	160/150/80	89/91/88	4/8/8	Bk
Definitive Techn ProCinema 80	995	★★★★☆ May 00	Compact sub/satellite package - highly capable especially in home cinema mode.	150/175/150	89/90/89	8/8/8	Bk
Definitive Technology BP-6	2035	★★★★☆ May 97	Highly recommended in the Awards 1997. Gives a larger-than-life room-filling sound.	175/125/125	91/91/90	4/4/4	Bk
Definitive Technology BP-2004	2890	★★★☆☆ Feb 99	May sound potent and have good midrange grip, but doesn't grab or excite as the best.	250/200/200	91/90/90	8/8/8	Bk
Dynaudio Aud 122/C122 42W	1795	★★★★☆ Jun 01	This is a package with no notable flaws and outstanding all-round performance.	200/200/150	86/86/86	6/6/4	3
Elac Imago 50x40	2846	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	NXT flat-panel speakers in frames, but sonically inferior to normal speakers .	60/60/60	86/86/86	4/4/4	Sl



WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★



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DVP-S7700 MULTI.....£489
DVP-CX850 MULTI.....£579
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DAV-S500 MULTI.....£579
DAV-S800 MULTI.....£779

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DV-636 MULTI.....£389
DVL-737 MULTI £599

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MZE-900 MD PLAYER.....£204
MZ-G750 MD RECORDER + FM£175
MZR-900 MD RECORDER.....£183
MZR-700 PC MD RECORDER £160

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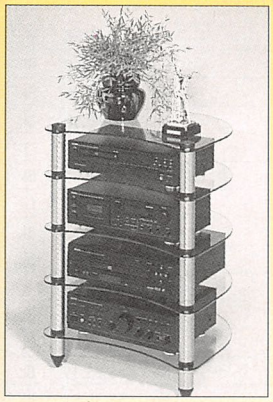

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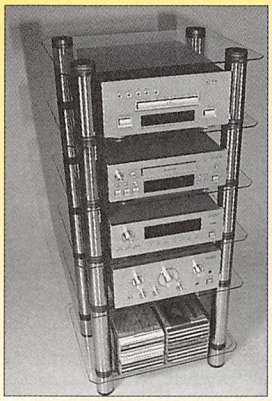
From 4-7 shelves



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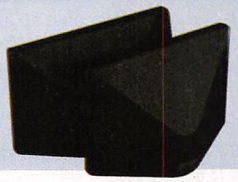
Rear speakers Best Buys

up to £200

1 **Mission 77DS** £200
2 **Eltax HT-2 Bipolar** £150
3 **Paradigm ADP-100** £200
4 **Boston Acoustics VRS Micro** £170



over £200

1 **M&K Surround 55** £795
2 **KEF TDM 34DS** £699
3 **B&W DS6** £400
4 **Paradigm ADP-150** £270

KEY: Power rating The suggested maximum power rating.
Sensitivity The higher the figure, the louder the speaker will sound at a given amplifier setting
Impedance Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speakers are for an amplifier to drive
Biwirable Can they be biwired (see Glossary)?
Size Will it fit? Height x width x depth, measured in cms
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £1250

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS					
				Power Rating	Sensitivity	Impedence	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
Boston Acoustics VRS Micro	179	★★★★★ Aug 97	Best Buy in the Awards 1998. The most appealing small surrounds around.	100	86	8	No	19.10.14	2
Definitive Technology BP-1X	395	★★★★☆ Aug 97	May not be the cheapest rear speakers around but they certainly perform.	125	90	8	No	27.23.15	2
Definitive Technology BP-2X	595	★★★★☆ Jan 99	Compact cabinets that sound gutsy taking heavy effects shifts in their stride.	200	90	8	No	37.23.15	2
Definitive Technology BP-X	1095	★★★★★ VTV 4	Terrific bass with huge power handling.	350	90	8	No	45.25.17	Bk
Eltax HT-2 Bipolar	149	★★★★★ Jun 98	Highly recommended in the Awards 1998. Outdoes conventional speakers at the price.	60	87	6	No	21.19.15	2
Jamo A 500 (was Artina)	120	★★★☆☆ VTV 4	Superb looks but sounds a little lightweight.	50	90	8	No	25.29.8	2
Jamo D 5SUR (was Surround 300)	260	★★★★☆ Aug 97	Deliver more bass than the majority of surrounds. Perfect for a not-so-quiet night in.	60	88	6	No	28.24.18	3
JBL CM52	160	★★★☆☆ Jan 97	The CM52s performance is just about adequate, but the bass is just a bit too weedy.	100	89	6	No	26.17.17	2
KEF Model TDM 34DS	700	★★★★★ Jan 99	Use with top-notch partners and they excel at ambient detail and have genuine weight.	150	88	4	No	30.42.20	2
M&K Surround 55	795	★★★★★ May 01	You need a good system to justify these M&Ks, but in the right set-up they are brilliant.	200	89	4	No	26.17.21	
M&K SS-150 THX	1250	★★★★★ VTV 5	Very possibly the finest rear speakers ever created - not the thing for a budget system.	200	90	4	No	27.21.17	Bk
Mission 77DS	200	★★★★★ Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Ensure the sound wraps around you convincingly.	75	90	8	No	27.34.12	2
Paradigm ADP-70	180	★★★☆☆ Jan 99	Lightweight with no significant punch or bass, best only with other Paradigm speakers.	80	89	8	No	22.20.14	Bk
Paradigm ADP-100	200	★★★★★ Apr 97	Smooth progressive punchy energetic balance - nothing comes close at this price.	200	88	6	No	22.23.16	Bk
Paradigm ADP-150	270	★★★★☆ Aug 97	There's a lot to recommend in these refreshingly refined gentle giants.	80	89	6	No	27.23.17	Bk
Paradigm ADP-450	600	★★★★☆ Aug 98	Immensely heavy designs that are well-built and deliver plenty of meaty bass.	175	90	8	Yes	54.21.30	Bk

Subwoofers Best Buys

up to £500

1 **REL Q100E** £500
2 **Yamaha YST-SW320** £350
3 **B&W ASW 1000** £500
4 **Jamo E6 sub** £299

over £500

1 **REL Q400E** £1000
2 **REL Strata III** £600
3 **M&K V-1250** £895
4 **REL Q201E** £700

KEY: Power rating For active subwoofers, refers to the power output of the internal amplifier. For passive subs, refers to recommended maximum power handling
Sensitivity (passive speakers) The higher the figure, the louder the speaker will sound at a given amplifier setting
Impedance (passive speakers) Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speaker is for an amplifier to drive
Biwirable Can they be biwired (see Glossary)?
Size Will it fit? Height x width x depth, measured in cms
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £4000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS					
				Power Rating	Sensitivity	Impedence	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
Acoustic Energy Aesprit 308	650	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Classy and enjoyable subwoofer, just lacks the final degree of punch of rivals.	A200	-	-	No	41.37.30	Mp
B&W ASW1000	500	★★★★★ Oct 98	Great value for the home cinema fan, and impressive room filling power.	A120	-	-	No	46.54.50	BA
Boston Acoustics PV400	249	★★☆☆☆ Feb 01	Easily outclassed by its rivals - this is one to avoid, so look elsewhere.	A65	-	-	No	50.25.28	Bk
Eltax Atomic A-15	299	★★★☆☆ May 00	Not the best in a hi-fi system but can certainly bang out the bass with film soundtracks.	A150	-	-	No	50.50.50	Bk
Jamo E 6SUB	299	★★★★☆ Feb 01	Stylish, sonically capable product, which only narrowly misses top marks.	A100	-	-	No	34.39.39	3
JPW SW 40	240	★★★★☆ Jul 98	Small, effective and affordable - for home cinema it does the job rather nicely.	A50			No	42.32.32	Bk
KEF Model 30B	500	★★★★★ Jan 96	Well thought out; more dynamic and crisp than some. '96 Award winner.	A100			No	37.39.43	Gr
Kenwood SW-305 (B)	179	★★★★☆ Awd 01	Bargain buy, better with movies than music, but adds punch and depth to both.	A100	-	-	No	25.40.32	Bk
Kenwood SW-501	350	★★★☆☆ May 01	Easy to use and comes with a remote control but it fails to deliver low frequency thrill.	A150			No	55.52.36	Bk
Linn Sizmik10.5	995	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	May be a neat design but it is outstripped by similarly priced competitors.	A500	-	-	No	39.36.36	3
M&K VX-100	845	★★★★★ Jul 99	Really hit the spot when asked to perform highly musical low frequency duties.	A100	-	-	No	31.37.28	Bk
M&K V-125	995	★★★★★ Jun 96	Highly recommended in the Awards 1997. They are fast with incredible punch.	A125	-	-	No	46.39.51	Bk
M&K MX-70B	1050	★★★★★ VT Oct 96	Powerful and punchy with unfeasible bass levels from a teenier than teeny box.	A125	-	-	No	45.25.35	Bk
M&K MX-350 (THX)	2095	★★★★★ Awd 98	Used with pedigree partnering equipment the MX-350s are little short of breathtaking.	A350	-	-	No	58.39.51	Bk
MJ Acoustics Pro 50	299	★★★★★ Nov 01	Fine debut from a new name in subwoofers - awesome clout from a tiny enclosure.	A50	-	-	No	28.28.33	Bk
Paradigm PDR-10	250	★★★★☆ Aug 97	Highly Recommended in the 1997 Awards. Offers bags of bass for the money.	A80			No	36.34.40	Bk

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Processors Best Buys

up to £350

1 Yamaha DSP-E800 £330

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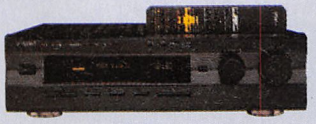

over £350

1 Myryad MDP500 £1500
2 Meridian 568 £3800
3 TAG McLaren AV32R £2299
4 Lexicon MC1 £5600

KEY: Power Figures are shown in the order Centre, Surround, Rears (if provided)
Modes P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=DD EX, E=DTS ES

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Six-channel input Vital for DVD-Audio/SACD multichannel

Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £6500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS				
				Power	Modes	Digital Inputs	Video Inputs	Six Channel Inputs
Cyrus AV5	1000	★★★★★ May 00	Home cinema processor and preamp - this is a fantastic, well-rounded product.	Pre/A	D/S	6	0	No
Lexicon DC-2	3800	★★★★★ Awd 99	Superlative multichannel processor that's ideal for music use as well as home cinema.	Pre/A	D/S/E	8	5	No
Lexicon MC-1	5600	★★★★★ Feb 00	Cracking multichannel processor, blessed with exceptional sonic ability.	Pre/A	D/S/E	8	8	No
Meridian 568	3600	★★★★★ Oct 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Glorious levels of performance with music and movies.	Pre/A	2/D/S/T	5	2	No
Meridian 861	6500	★★★★★ Feb 00	Brilliant, better-sounding than almost everything else ever made.	Pre/A	2/D/S/T	7	8	No
Myryad MDP500	1500	★★★★★ Oct 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Combined with the MA360/MA240 it's hugely impressive.	Pre/A	D/S	6	6	Yes
Primare P30	1999	★★★★☆ Oct 00	The P30 with the A30.5 power amp make a delightful pairing for music and movies.	Pre/A	D/S	8	5	No
Roksan Caspian DSP	1295	★★★★☆ Feb 00	Fantastic purely as a music preamplifier but slightly below par as a home cinema decoder.	Pre/A	D/S	4	0	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio AV32R	2299	★★★★★ Sep 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. High-end sophistication and quite sensational sonic delivery.	Pre/A	D/S	5	8	No
TAG McLaren AV32R EX Plus	2744	★★★★★ Oct 00	Stunning - used with the 100x5R amp you will have enough sonic thrills to last a lifetime.	Pre/A	D/S/E	5	8	No
Theta Digital Casa Nova	3998	★★★★☆ Feb 00	Almost ideal solution for high-end hi-fi users with an ear for home cinema.	Pre/A	D/S	6	6	No
Yamaha DSP-E800	330	★★★★★ Oct 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Brillance in a sensibly priced box.	70/70	D/S	3	5	Yes

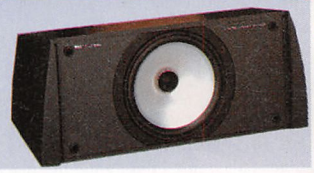
Centre Speakers Best Buys

up to £200

1 Mission 77cl £200 (right)
2 KEF Q95C.2 £200 (far right)
3 Tannoy Mercury MC £100
4 Boston Acoustics Micro 90C £180

over £200

1 Celestion A4C £499
2 Jamo D8CEN £550
3 KEF Model 80C £130
4 M&K S-125C £650



KEY: Power rating The suggested maximum power rating
Sensitivity The higher the figure, the louder the speaker will sound at a given amplifier setting
Impedance Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speakers are for an amplifier to drive
Size Will it fit? Height x width x depth, measured in cms
Biwirable Can they be biwired (see Glossary)?
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £2000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS					
				Power Rating	Sensitivity	Impedance	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
Boston Acoustics Micro 90 C	199	★★★★☆ Aug 97	Wow. Cute is not the word. And not only easy on the eye but easy on the ear as well.	125	90	8	No	12.30.13	2
Celestion A4c	499	★★★★★ Oct 98	It isn't cheap - but used with sufficiently able partnering kit this is a beauty.	150	88	4	Yes	19.66.21	Gr
Definitive Technology C-1B	395	★★★★☆ Aug 97	Blessed with immense scale and a very generous soundstage. Needs a powerful amp.	200	91	8	No	17.48.22	Bk
Definitive Technology CLR 1000B	595	★★★★★ VTV 3	Massive in every way; this speaker is excellent.	300	90	8	No	20.55.30	Bk
Definitive Technology CLR 2000	845	★★★★★ VTV 3	Superb; ideal for use in a top-notch system.	300	90	8	Yes	22.55.38	Bk
Eltax HT-2 Centre	79	★★★☆☆ Aug 97	This is one cheap speaker and works fairly well too. But it is worth spending more.	75	89	8	No	20.44.16	3
Eltax Linear Response LR- Center	199	★★★★★ Mar 98	Impressive spread of sound and deep controlled bass - perfect for action movies.	150	87	6	Yes	19.55.33	Bc
KEF Model 100	360	★★★★★ Dec 95	Strong soundstaging and precise imaging. Highly recommended in the Awards 1996 .	125	90	6	Yes	17.46.17	Gr
KEF Reference 200C	700	★★★★☆ VTV 4	Stunning clarity and excellent punch.	200	90	4	Yes	17.76.17	Gr
M&K S-125C	675	★★★★☆ Jan 99	Excellent centre, it punches hard and fast, with lots of clarity. Won't suit all systems.	200	89	4	No	16.47.21	Bk
Magnum Acoustics Centre Pod	269	★★★☆☆ Mar 98	Certainly looks the part with its aesthetically-pleasing shape but it can lack weight.	100	92	8	Yes	16.45.18	2
Meridian M60C	1200	★★★★★ VTV 3	Fabulous depth, presence, power and realism from this Active centre.	A75	-	-	No	21.90.30	Bk
Meridian DSP 5000C	1995	★★★★☆ Aug 94	Active centre with built-in amp and digital-to-analogue converter.	A75	-	-	No	21.90.30	Bk
Mission 77c1	200	★★★★★ Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Provides a powerfully focused wedge of sound.	130	88	8	No	17.42.20	3
Paradigm CC-170	130	★★★☆☆ Jan 99	A gentle giant that would benefit from more fizz and sparkle. It's just too dull for us.	120	90	8	No	17.56.20	Bk
Paradigm CC-450	300	★★★★☆ Mar 98	Will appeal to all with its involving sound and suit a large-room set-up to a tee.	175	90	8	Yes	21.55.29	Bk
Tannoy Mercury MC	100	★★★★★ Dec 97	Perhaps the best affordable centre speaker there is. Its well-made and sounds superb.	80	90	8	No	16.43.15	Bk
Tannoy Definition D750	1000	★★★★☆ Jan 99	Huge centre which needs plenty of room, but they're also formidable in terms of sound.	300	90	6	Yes	24.83.40	Bk
Wharfedale Valdus Centre	100	★★★★★ Jun 96	Earns our wholehearted recommendation at such a bargain price.	100	90	8	No	15.43.17	Bk

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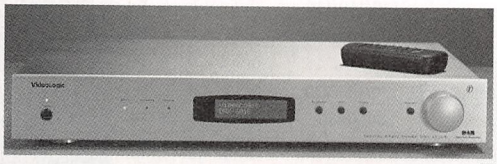

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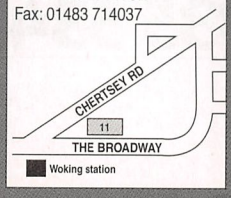

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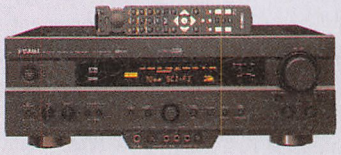
SURROUND AMPS AND RECEIVERS BEST BUYS

up to £800



1 **Yamaha RX-VX620 RDS** £450
2 **Marantz SR4200** £300
3 **Pioneer VSX-859RDS** £650
4 **Yamaha DSP-AX620** £400

over £800

1 **Rotel RSX-972** £1000
2 **Denon AVC-A1SE** £2500
3 **Yamaha DSP-AX1** £2000
4 **Pioneer VSA-E08** £1500
5 **Yamaha DSP-AX2** £1300

KEY: Power Most surround amplifiers have ample power, so remember, more watts don't always mean better sound. Figures are shown in the order Left/Right, Centre, Surround, Rears (if provided)
Modes P=PRO-LOGIC, 2=PROLOGIC II, D=DOLBY DIGITAL, S=DTS, T=THX, X=DD EX, E=DTS ES
Digital inputs for use with DVD players, CD players, etc..
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Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £2500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS				
				POWER	MODES	DIGITAL INPUTS	VIDEO INPUTS	SIX CHANNEL INPUTS
Arcam AVR100	800	★★★★☆ May 01	Sounds more than respectable with music but it lacks the sheer grunt that AV fans crave.	70/70/70	D/S	3	4	Yes
Arcam FMJ A22 DAVE	1850	★★★★★ Awd 00	Terrific combination of P25 and A22 Dave - handles music and movies very well indeed.	100/-/-	D/S	4	5	No
Denon AVR-1602	350	★★★★★ Nov 01	Classy - fine blend of features and strong performance in every area.	70/70/70	2/D/S	2	4	Yes
Denon AVR-1801	400	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Highly capable in every regard, outstripped only on specification points.	70/70/70	D/S	3	4	Yes
Denon AVR-2801	550	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Well-specified piece of kit that excels in surround sound but could be better in stereo.	60/60/60	D/S	4	3	Yes
Denon AVR-3802	800	★★★★★ Awd 01	Outstanding purchase for movie buffs, and near the top of the class in stereo too.	105x7	2/S/X/E	4	5	Yes
Denon AVC-A10SE	1300	★★★★★ Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. The most affordable THX Surround EX design around.	125/125/125	D/S/T	8	6	No
Denon AVC-A1SE	2500	★★★★★ Apr 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Without doubt one of the best one-box amps ever created.	170/170/170	D/S/T	10	8	Yes
Harman-Kardon AVR 4000RDS	499	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Well equipped, exciting to listen to and employs genuinely innovative design ideas.	55/55/55	D/S	2	5	Yes
Harman-Kardon AVR 5000 RDS	599	★★★★☆ Sep 01	A bounty of features and functions for the cinema buff - can't quite compete in stereo.	70/70/70	D/S	2	5	Yes
Harman-Kardon AVR 7000 RDS	899	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Solid performer but lacks the all-round talent to challenge the class leaders.	100/100/100	D/S	2	5	Yes
JVC RX-8012R	400	★★☆☆☆ Sep 01	Appears to offer good value but it can't compete with equally affordable rivals.	100/100/100	D/S	4	5	Yes
Kenwood KRF-V5050D	230	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Makes a perfectly acceptable buy for those on a tight budget.	100/100/100	D/S	3	3	Yes
Kenwood KRF-X9050D	400	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Proof that specs aren't everything - sounds harsh when pushed.	110/100/100	D/S/T	4	5	Yes
Kenwood KRF-V7773D	800	★★★☆☆ May 01	Packs plenty of clever touches but this model is now outclassed by newer rivals.	120/120/120	D/S	5	5	Yes
Marantz SR4200	300	★★★★★ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Great sonic performance and impressive feature list.	70/70/70	2/D/S	4	4	No
NAD T751	499	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Shortlist if you want a music system that can turn its hand to movies.	60/60/60	D/S	3	3	Yes
NAD T761	650	★★★★☆ Sep 01	If you're after an all-round receiver for home cinema and stereo, give this a try.	80/80/80	D/S	5	5	Yes
NAD T770	1000	★★★★☆ Apr 00	Very musical performer with both multichannel and stereo music. Fine one-stop solution.	70/70/70	D	3	5	Yes
Nakamichi AV-10	800	★★★☆☆ Apr 00	Looks rather over-priced next to the best of the new breed and lacks six-channel input.	100/100/100	D/S	2	4	No
Onkyo TX-DS484	300	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Sounds both lush and expansive with movies, though it lacks agility with music.	55/55/55	D/S	3	3	Yes
Onkyo TX-DS494	399	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Top-notch build quality and design - cinema fans will be more than satisfied.	75/75/75	2/D/S	3	3	Yes
Onkyo TX-DS575	400	★★★★☆ Oct 99	Strong specification, fine build, and good all round performance.	70/70/70	D/S	4	3	Yes
Onkyo TX-DS595	450	★★★★★ Jul 01	One of the best in its class - well rounded, well made and thoroughly worthy.	110/110/110	D/S	4	4	Yes
Onkyo TX-DS696	849	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Very fine receiver with an impressive specification - just a bit on the pricey side.	100/100/100	D/S	4	4	Yes
Onkyo TX-DS787	900	★★★★☆ May 01	One for the cineastes - includes everything including DTS-ES. But not the most musical.	115/115/115	D/S/T	4	5	Yes
Onkyo TX-DS989	2500	★★★☆☆ Sep 00	Beautifully made, comprehensively equipped but this doesn't translate into excitement.	130/130/130	D/S/X	8	6	Yes
Pioneer VSX-609RDS	250	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Great buy because it gets you into digital surround sound for such a modest outlay.	80/80/80	D/S	3	3	Yes
Pioneer VSX-709RDS	300	★★★☆☆ Aug 00	Bags of drive, punch and dynamics with movies - if only it was better with music.	80/80/80	D/S	3	4	Yes
Pioneer VSX-D810S	450	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Outstanding proposition for movie buffs - especially action. But it's not an all-rounder.	100/100/100/100	D/E	4	4	Yes
Pioneer VSX-859RDS	650	★★★★☆ May 01	Offers a lot for a sensible price - thrills with movies but is less convincing with music.	100/100/100	D/S/T	5	5	Yes
Pioneer VSA-E08	1500	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Good choice for the movie-lover, but not as rounded as some more affordable rivals.	130/130/130	D/S/T	5	5	Yes
Rotel RSX-972	1000	★★★★★ May 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Keeping it simple pays dividends in the performance.	75/75/75	D/S	5	5	Yes
Sherwood RVD-6095RDS	249	★★★★★ Awd 99	Spadefuls of home cinema bangs for your buck. Tested as RVD-6090RDS without DTS.	65/65/65	D/S	2	3	No
Sherwood R-956R	500	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Competent receiver and offers a lot for your money, but it's a disappointing performer.	140/140/140	X/E	6	6	Yes
Sony STR-DB1070	600	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Highly capable and if you must have Dolby Digital EX and DTS ES this is the one to go for.	100/100/100	D/E/X	4	5	Yes
Sony STR-V555ES	1000	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Classy receiver that's easy to use and live with, but doesn't quite merit greatness.	100/100/100	D/S	6	5	Yes
Technics SA-DX750	199	★★☆☆☆ Nov 01	Inexpensive, but it's very harsh at high volumes, lacks features and is poor in stereo.	80/80/80	D	3	0	No
Yamaha RX-V420RDS	300	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Good value for money - impresses with both music and movies.	65/65/65	D/S	3	4	Yes
Yamaha DSP-AX620	400	★★★★★ Jul 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Well made, easy to use and sounds great.	90/90/90	D/S	4	5	Yes
Yamaha RX-V620RDS	450	★★★★★ Sep 01	Bargain-priced and does everything extremely well. This is a very impressive product.	90/90/90	D/S	4	5	Yes
Yamaha DSP-AX2	1300	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Good solid amp with dynamic and involving movie sound.	100/100/100x3	X/E	7	7	Yes
Yamaha DSP-AX1	2000	★★★★★ Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 . More energy and more outright thrills than rivals.	110/110/110x3	X/E	10	8	Yes

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Call 01235 534323
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

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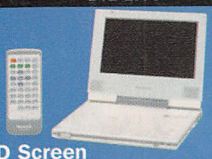

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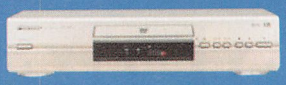

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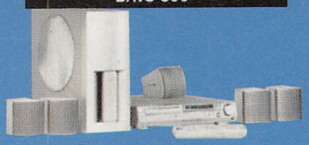

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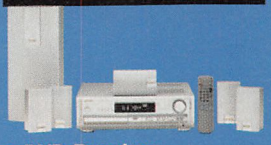

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- 5 Speaker & Subwoofer

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- PHILIPS VR520
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- PHILIPS VR720
- PHILIPS VR766
- PHILIPS VR870
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- SONY SLV-SE810
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- SONY SLV-X9
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WIDESCREEN
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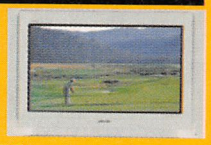

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JVC AV-32WFP1EK

- Pure Flat 32"
- Digital Comb Filter
- Dolby Prologic
- NTSC Video Input
- 100Hz Flicker Free Natural Motion
- Picture in Picture with Twin Tuners

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PANASONIC TX32PG50 TX36PG50

WIDESCREEN
- 32" Television
- 100Hz Flicker Free
- Dolby Digital/DTS

LOCAL RATE 0845 345 3747

SONY KV32DX30 KV28DX30

WIDESCREEN
- 32" Television
- On Digital Tuner
- Dolby Prologic

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WIDESCREEN
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- 100Hz Flicker Free
- Dolby Digital Surround
- NTSC Video Input

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- 100Hz with Progressive Scan
- Dolby Digital/DTS

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WIDESCREEN
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- 32" Pure Flat
- 100Hz Flicker Free
- NTSC Video Input

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- 32" Television
- Pure Flat
- 100Hz Flicker Free
- NTSC Video Input

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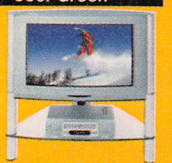

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PANASONIC KV32DX30 KV28DX30

WIDESCREEN
- 32" Television
- 100Hz Flicker Free
- Nicam

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SONY KV36FS70

WIDESCREEN
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- Pure Flat
- 100Hz
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- 3x Scart

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TOSHIBA 56WH08B

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- 100Hz
- Dolby Digital

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SONY KF-50SX100

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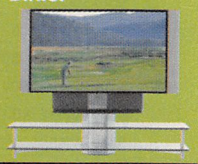
- LCD Rear Projector
- D.R.C.



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SONY KP41DS1 41" KP51DS1 51"

- Widescreen
- On Digital Tuner
- Nicam

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HITACHI C43WP910TN

- 43" Rear Projector
- 100Hz Flicker Free
- Dolby Digital/DTS

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- 100Hz Flicker Free

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- NTSC Video Input

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- 100Hz
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Product	£	Verdict	We said...	The facts: Type	Decoder	RGB	SCART Out	CD-R	Digital Out
Pioneer DV-535	250	★★★★★ Apr 01	Excellent player for the money - spinning movies and making music with aplomb.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DV-737	700	★★★★★ Sep 01	Not new, but still one of the best. First rate DVD performer and reasonable with CDs.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DV-939A	1200	★★★★★ May 01	Terrific DVD-Audio player - although if you don't need DVD-A the DV-737 would do as well.	A/V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Primare V10	700	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Well-made, highly attractive player that works well. Not cutting-edge, but worth a look.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Roksan Caspian	1195	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Solid all-round performer especially when playing CDs.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Rotel RDV-995	700	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	Attractive player for the hi-fi set, but the lack of RGB Scart is a major demerit.	V	No	No	0	Yes	C/O
Samsung DVD-511	189	★★★★☆ Jun 01	Good vision and movie sound and it is easy to hack, but CD playback is rough.	V	No	Yes	1	No	C/O
Samsung DVD-811	299	★★★☆☆ Jan 01	Attractive player with good picture performance but not as musical as we'd like.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Scan SC-2000	152	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Cheap but feels it - may do the lot but it doesn't do it very well.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Sony DVP-NS300	249	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Good picture and gorgeous looks but its lack of musicality counts against it.	V	No	Yes	1	No	C
Sony DVP-NS400D	330	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Very good DVD-V player but none too special when playing CDs.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Sony DVP-NS700V	400	★★★★★ Sep 01	Astonishingly good price for a DVD-video and multichannel SACD combi-player.	V/S	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Sony DVP-S735D	450	★★★★☆ Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. First-class picture and sound performance.	V	Yes	Yes	2	No	C/O
Sony DVP-S9000ES	1300	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Great DVD-V and two-channel SACD player, but it's no stunner with CD.	V	No	Yes	2	No	C/O
TAG McLaren Audio DVD32R	3995	★★★★★ Feb 01	Outstanding build quality, outstanding specification, terrific performance in every area.	V	No	No	0	Yes	C/O
Toshiba SD-210E	230	★★★★★ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Sensational picture and fine sound.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Toshiba SD-500E	600	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	Highly competent player with a top-notch picture. Not the first choice for music lovers.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Toshiba SD-900E	1300	★★★★★ Mar 01	Superlative universal player, able to handle DVD-V, DVD-A and CD with equal aplomb.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Yamaha DVD-S510	230	★★★★★ Oct 01	Well-made, high-quality budget player that performs well with movies and music alike.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Yamaha DVD-C996 (5 disc)	500	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Capable enough at its price, but it never really excites.	V	No	No	1	No	C/O

Video recorders Best Buys

up to £250

1 JVC HR-S6700 £250
You can now have S-VHS quality at an affordable price, this JVC proving that the Super-VHS format offers superior picture quality.

over £250

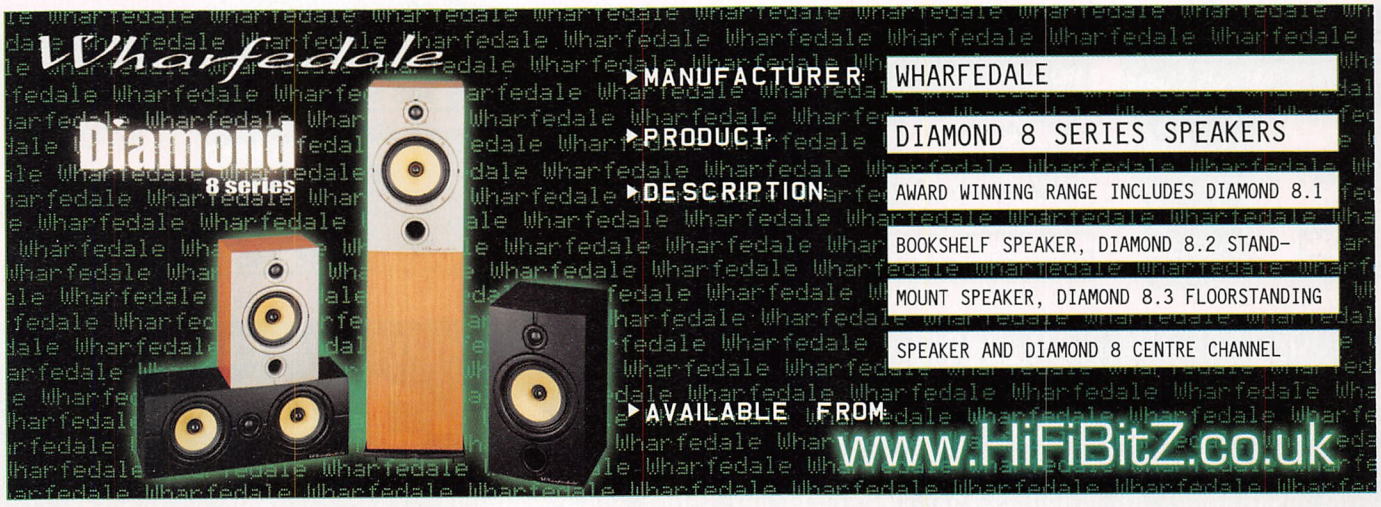
1 Panasonic NV-FJ760 £259
Delivers a fine, fuzz-free picture and solid AV performance by VHS standards, backed up by a highly competitive specification

KEY: Type Indicates whether the recorder is standard VHS
Scart sockets 21-pin audio/video connector that forms the main link between your VCR and TV set
VideoPlus A simple timer recording system, programmed using codes published in TV listings guides

PDC An extension of the VideoPlus system, allows the timer to compensate for schedule changes
Standard What TV standard(s) will it record/play? P = PAL, N = NTSC, S= SECAM
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £1300

Product	£	Verdict	We said...	The facts: Type	SCART Sockets	PDC	VideoPlus	Standard
Hitachi VT-FX960E	200	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Decent VCR, particularly for off-air recording but it doesn't standout at this price.	VHS	2	Yes	Yes	P/N
Hitachi VT-FX980	260	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Thoroughly well-equipped including Commercial Advance system.	VHS	2	No	Yes	P/N
JVC HR-S6700EK	250	★★★★★ Aug 01	Probably the best-value VCR, if you can fork out for S-VHS tapes, currently available.	S-VHS	2	No	Yes	P/N
JVC HM-HDS1	1000	★★★★☆ Awd 01	Hard-disc recorder and VCR in one box - fantastic piece of kit and easy to set up.	S-VHS	2	Yes	Yes	P
Panasonic NV-FJ760	259	★★★★☆ Aug 01	First-rate AV performance by VHS standards - makes high-quality recordings.	VHS	2	Yes	Yes	P/N
Philips VR20D	1300	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Top-notch VCR for the truly committed - works superbly with Digital-VHS.	D-VHS	2	Yes	Yes	N/P
Sharp VC-S2000HM	250	★★★★★ Awd 01	Superb picture quality in Super VHS ET mode - sounds good too.	S-VHS	2	Yes	Yes	P/N
Sharp VC-ME80	260	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Flexible deck for dedicated fans of camcorders or home dubbing.	VHS	2	Yes	Yes	P/N
Sony SLV-SE850	260	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Complements Sony's Art Couture TVs - but not the best-performing deck for the price.	VHS	2	Yes	Yes	P/N



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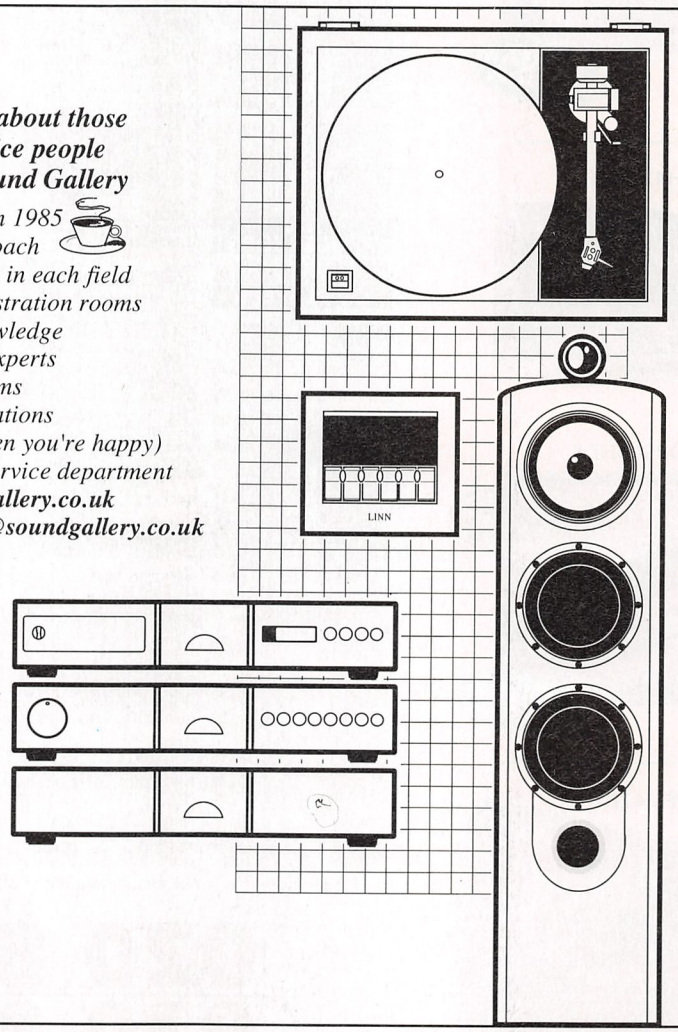

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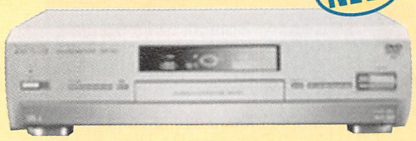

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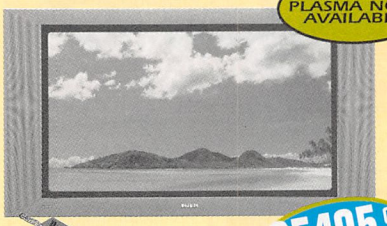

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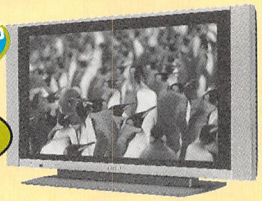

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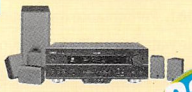
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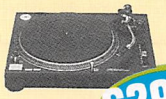
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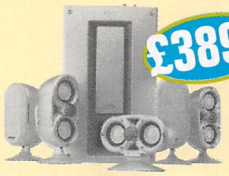
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COMPACT 2WAY SPEAKER
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KEF CRESTA 2

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★
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MISSION M72

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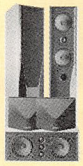
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WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★
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MISSION FS2 AV

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TANNOY MX1

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DVD PLAYERS BEST BUYS

up to £500

1 **Marantz DV4100OSE** £400
2 **Toshiba SD-210E** £230
3 **Pioneer DV-535** £250
4 **Minato DVD G1** £130

over £500

1 **Arcam DV88** £1000
2 **Denon DVD-2800** £750
3 **Meridian 596** £2350
4 **Pioneer DV737** £700
5 **Toshiba SD-900E** £1300

KEY: Type of player Is the player a DVD-Video or DVD-Audio design. A = DVD-AUDIO, V = DVD-VIDEO S = SACD RW=RECORDABLE/REWRITABLE
Decoder Internal surround decoders to turn a Pro-Logic amplifier into a 5.1 system
RGB Scart-based method of sending high-quality pictures from DVD players to TVs. Stands for Red, Green and Blue
Scart out 21-pin audio/video connector that forms the main link between your DVD player and TV set
CD-R replay Indicates if CD-R discs can be replayed
Digital out To feed a datastream to a suitable AV processor, amp or receiver. C= COAXIAL, O = OPTICAL
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £9000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS					
				TYPE	DECODER	RGB	SCART OUT	CD-R	DIGITAL OUT
Arcam DiVA DV88	1000	★★★★★ Mar 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. A do-it-all machine that combines movie and music in one.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Arcam FMJ DV27	1600	★★★★★ Sep 01	Plays movies and music to a very high standard indeed.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Bush DVD-2009	170	★★☆☆☆ Oct 00	Disappointing - feels more like a bargain-basement design than its rivals.	V	No	No	1	No	C/O
Cyrus DVD 7	1000	★★★★★ Aug 01	Possibly the best 'sensibly' priced player we've yet encountered, great with movies too.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Denon DVD-1000	300	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Accomplished player that is easy to live with and well made. We like this player a lot.	V	No	No	1	Yes	C/O
Denon DVD-2800	750	★★★★★ Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Breathtaking performance and thorough specifications.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Denon DVD-3300	1000	★★★★☆ Apr 01	Capable CD, DVD-Video and DVD-Audio player - outperforms the Technics it was based on.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	No	C/O
Denon DVM-3700	1000	★★★★☆ Apr 00	Serious bit of kit with five-disc DVD-Video changer. Good surround sound performance.	V	No	No	0	No	C/O
Grundig Xenaro GDP5102	250	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	A bit of an oddball, but a largely endearing one - it functions well but not with CDs.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
Hitachi DV-P315	200	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Solid purchase, although more movie-orientated than all-rounder.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Hitachi DVP-705E	340	★★★☆☆ Aug 01	Capable player but it simply can't compete in today's swift-moving market.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Hitachi DV-W1E	500	★★★☆☆ Dec 00	Neatness and convenience galore, but doesn't perform well enough to justify the price.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
JVC XV-S42	250	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Solid but unspectacular - worth a look for movie lovers but not an all-rounder.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
JVC XV-D721	500	★★☆☆☆ Dec 00	The first affordable DVD-Audio player is a big let-down. It fails in every department.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	No	C/O
Kenwood DVF-R7030B	700	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Impressive multichanger - combines strong standards of playback with convenience.	V	Yes	Yes	2	No	C/O
Lecson DVD-900	199	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Still a solid performer, but the new generation of big-brand players undermine it.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
LG DVD-4950	250	★★★★★ Nov 01	Fantastic picture and film sound make this a good bet for home cinema fans.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Logix 3000	150	★★☆☆☆ Jun 01	A lesser-known brand that should stay that way - murky picture and lip-sync problems.	V	No	Yes	1	No	C/O
Marantz DV4100 OSE	400	★★★★★ Aug 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Performance way beyond its price.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Matsui DVD-122	129	★★★★☆ Jun 01	Surprisingly good - offers good movie watching ability for the money.	V	No	No	1	No	C
Meridian 596	2350	★★★★★ Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Outstanding picture and a sensational CD performance too.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
Meridian Reference 800	9000	★★★★★ Feb 01	Staggeringly sophisticated, totally flexible, and astonishingly accomplished.	V	No	No	0	Yes	C
Minato DVD G1	130	★★★★★ Aug 01	Highly impressive for the price - there is no bigger bargain in home entertainment.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
NAD T550	500	★★★★☆ Jul 00	Splendid picture and good stereo sound but it's fairly pricey.	V	Yes	Yes	1	No	C/O
Nakamichi DVD-10S	600	★★★★☆ Dec 00	Still a highly desirable video player with terrific build and good video and CD replay.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Nakamichi DVD-15	1100	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Five disc multiplayer that simply oozes class - but it's a lot of money by any standards.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Onkyo DV-S535	900	★★★★☆ Awd 01	Good back-to-basics disc spinner, with money spent on quality rather than frippery.	V	No	Yes	1	No	C/O
Onkyo DV-S939	1800	★★★★★ Jun 01	One of the best DVD players available - extremely capable sonically.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Panasonic DVD-RV41EBS	300	★★★☆☆ Nov 01	Solid buy, provided you only want to play Region 2 discs and already have a CD player.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	O
Panasonic DVD-RA71	500	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Thoroughly competent, and has DVD-Audio, but it's not inspiring enough.	A/V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Philips DVD-1010	700	★★★★☆ May 01	One for the 'cinephile' it delivers video goods in spades but lacks audio inspiration.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Philips DVD-R1000	1300	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Recordable DVD - outstanding recording quality and technically a wonderful achievement.	R	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O

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6

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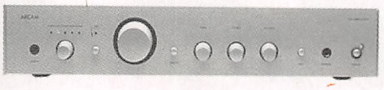

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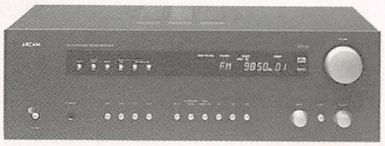

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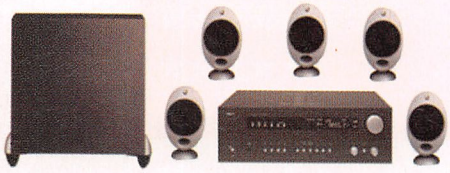

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Classik/CompactA

£1290

Add Stylish New R45 Radio Headphones For only £79.00
Reception up to 90 metre

✪ What you get!
- 5 year warranty (Exc Labour)
- Free Leads & Delivery
- *Interest Free Credit Available

Classik 2 CD/Tuner/Amp with Compact A Spkrs
Stunning performance at this price
Classik 2 in any colour £995.00
Celestion Compact A Spkrs £599.00

Arcam/Mission
CD72/A75/M72

Save over £200 !!!
£849

Add HD 580 Phones for only £89.00
Reduced from £199

✪ What you get!
- 2 year Electronics & 5 year Speaker warranty
- Free Delivery & Local Installation
- *Interest Free Credit available

✪ Limited offer! Save over £200
Get in the mood for Christmas with the fabulous CD72 powerful A75 & stylish M72 speakers.Quantities are limited so Call now!

Auditions?...
We supply the finest hi-fi, A/V & DVD in London and you can be sure that any of the products you see advertised here are on display and available for audition directly in the shop or in our comfortable listening rooms. Helpful experienced staff are always on hand to help explore the many new possibilities open to you.

Warranty?...
All hi-fi and A/V is covered by our no nonsense two year minimum warranty with many ranges incorporating a five year in house cover. And... if you want to upgrade, we offer a part exchange service so you are not left with your old hi-fi

Where?...
We are on the main A20 road between Lewisham and Blackheath BR Stations. Buses: 122 321. Local parking is available.

When?..
We are open between the hours of 10am to 6.30pm Monday - Saturday (Closed Sunday and Thursday)

Mail Order?..
FREE Next day del call 020 **8852 1321**

INTEREST FREE CREDIT!

0%

* Interest free credit is available for purchases of £400 or above over 6 - 12 mths. Call for details
single or combined purchases included

PRODUCT RANGE
Arcam ✳ AVI ✳ B&W ✳ Chord Co ✳ Denon
Linn ✳ Marantz ✳ Naim ✳ Nakamichi ✳ PMC
ProAc ✳ Pioneer ✳ Rega ✳ Rotel ✳ REL
Sennheiser ✳ Sugden ✳ TAG ✳ TLC ✳ Yamaha

THE A LIST

Arcam DiVA CD72 CD Player	£399.00
Arcam DiVA DV88 Player	£999.00
Arcam FMJ DV27 DVD Player	£1595.00
Linn Genki CD Player	£995.00
Naim CD 5 Player	£1125.00
Rega Planet 2000 CD Player	£4 98.00
Rega P 2 T/T inc RB250 arm ***NEW!***	£198.00
Rega P 3 T/T inc RB300 arm ***NEW!***	£298.00
✪ **Rega Products now available in silver** ✪	
Arcam FMJ A22 Amplifer	£999.00
Arcam DiVA A65 Amplifier	£369.00
Linn Kolector\LK85 Pre/Power	£950.00
Naim Nait 5 Amplifier	£799.00
Naim NAT05 Tuner ***NEW!***	£799.00
TAG McLaren AV32R Processor	£2299.00
TAG McLaren DVD32R DVD Player ***NEW!***	£3995.00
Arcam DiVA AVR 100 AV Receiver	£799.00
Linn Pekin Tuner ***NEW!***	£54 5.00
Nakamichi DR8 Cassette Deck	£4 99.00
Xelos 32inch 100hz Widescreen TV	£1295.00
AVI Neutron Speakers	£4 99.00
B&W DM 601/3 Speakers ***NEW!***	£24 9.00
B&W CM2 Speakers ***NEW!***	£550.00
Blueroom Minipods(Blue/Silver/White/Blk)	£289.00
Linn Katan Speakers ***NEW!***	£635.00
Mission 773E Speakers ***NEW!***	£329.00
Tannoy Mx2 Speakers	£14 9.00

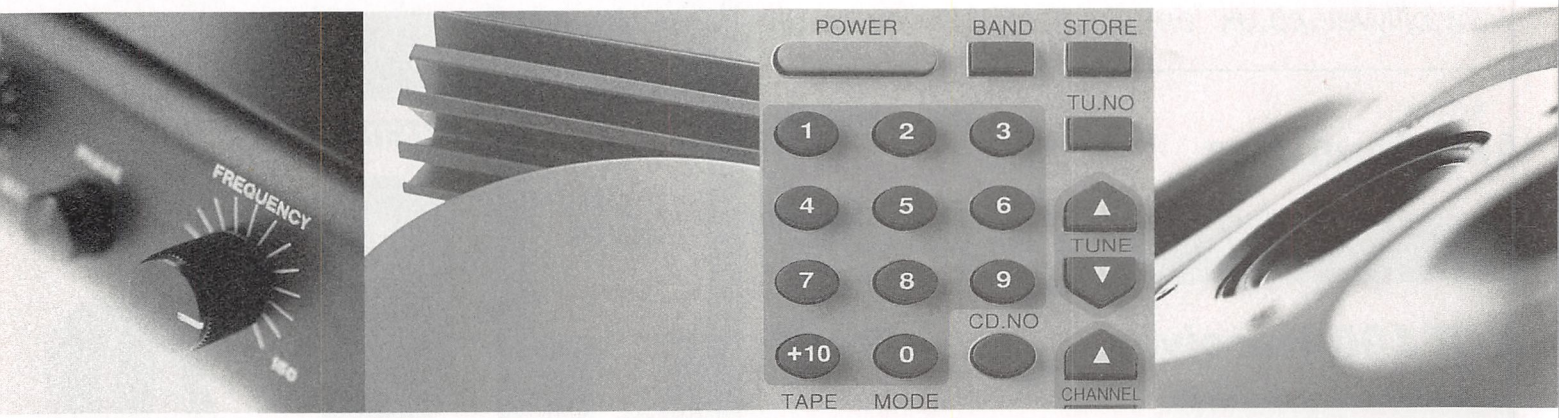
E&OE - Arcam, Marantz Shop callers only

Display Bargains up to 50% off

Arcam AV50 Amp - New Boxed (was 699)	**£179.00**
Arcam A65 Amplifier (was 379.00)	**£299.00**
Arcam FMJ CD23 Player (was 1099)	**£849.00**
B&W 603/S2 Speakers (was 54 9)	**£399.00**
KEF Q35.2 Speakers (was 34 9.00)	**£249.00**
KEF Concerto 2 Spkrs (799.00)	**£349.00**
Linn Kairn Line Preamp (was 14 00)	**£799.00**
Linn CD12 Player (was 1200.00)	**£7995.00**
Linn Keilidh Spkrs inc Stands (was 885.00)	**£695.00**
Marantz DV4100 DVD (was 399.00)	**£279.00**
Marantz DV7000 DVD (was 599.00)	**£449.00**
Marantz SR5000 AV Receiver (was 4 99)	**£355.00**
Naim CD2 CD Player (was1995)	**£1099.00**
Naim NAC 72 Preamp (was 760.00)	**£449.00**
Naim NAP250 Power Amp (was1855)	**£1450.00**
Naim NAT 02 Tuner (was 124 0.00)	**£895.00**
Naim Intro Spkrs - Beech (was 790.00)	**£590.00**
Naim SBL Spkrs Passive (was 24 75.00)	**£1195.00**
Naim AV1 Processor (was 1835.00)	**£659.00**
PMC TB2 Speakers (Was 700.00)	**£529.00**
Rega Jura Spkrs - Black (was 4 98.00)	**£299.00**

2 year warranty on most goods. U.K. Delivery £5 per item

020 8318 5755



"You wouldn't think about buying a car if you couldn't take it for a test drive. You wouldn't buy a house solely on the strength of seeing the estate agent's details."

worth of hi-fi and home cinema systems. They know that without experiencing the performance of the systems they offer, you can't possibly assess the value of them. That's why their idea of "selling" is to play the systems for you and allow you to be the judge.

Listening to your choice of music in a peaceful, well organised demonstration room, you may be surprised and, almost certainly, relieved to discover how easy it is to hear the differences between components and between systems. With the dealer's help and advice you will be able to make a clear and informed decision about what to buy. It comes down to trusting your own judgement rather than the opinion of a reviewer you've never met ... and who won't refund your money if you're not satisfied or be at the end of a phone to sort out any problems you might encounter.

The story doesn't end there. These shops won't abandon you once you've put your hand into your pocket. They won't leave you to set up the system you've selected as best you can. They'll install it in your home, make sure it sounds great, and make sure that you're entirely happy with the way it works.

Why bother?

There is, of course, one question that hasn't been answered: why should you and these dealers go to all this trouble? Well, from your point of view maybe it's because a good deal is about a great deal more than just price. Unless you've got money to burn, you'll be living with your new system for years — years during which most of those five star products will probably stop shining quite so brightly.

As far as the dealers are concerned, maybe they believe that taking care of their customers properly is a nicer way of doing business than just handing over boxes.

Listed below are 20 of the best hi-fi shops in the country. They all have lots of stars. You'll find them on the shop floor: they're the people waiting to guide customers towards hi-fi that will give them years of musical enjoyment and total satisfaction.

STAR QUALITIES

VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★
SERVICE	★★★★★
FACILITIES	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★★★★

TOP 20 UK SPECIALIST HI-FI DEALERS

LONDON

N1 GRAHAMS HI-FI
190a New North Road
020 7226 5500

SW11
ORANGES & LEMONS
61/63 Webbs Road, Battersea
020 7924 2040

W4 MARTIN-KLEISER
109 Chiswick High Road
020 8400 5555

SOUTH

Ashford, Kent
SOUNDCRAFT HI-FI
40 High St. 01233 624441

Beaconsfield MARTIN-KLEISER
9 London End
01494 681300

Chelmsford
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
216 Moulsham Street
01245 265245

East Grinstead
AUDIO DESIGNS
26 High St. 01342 314569

Kingston-upon-Thames
INFIDELITY
9 High Street, Hampton Wick
020 8943 3530

Lakeside Retail Park
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
Dansk International
Furniture World
01708 680551

Rayleigh, Essex
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
44a High St. 01268 779762

Ringwood, Hampshire
PHONOGRAPHY
Star Lane 01425 461230

Southend-on-Sea
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
132/4 London Road
01702 435255

Worthing PHASE 3 HI-FI
213-217 Tarring Road
01903 245577

MIDLANDS

Banbury OVERTURE
3 Church Lane
01295 272158

Birmingham
SOUND ACADEMY
152a High Street, Bloxwich
01922 493499

Leicester CYMBIOSIS
6 Hotel St. 0116 262 3754

Northampton LISTEN INN
32 Gold St. 01604 637871

Shrewsbury
CREATIVE AUDIO
9 Dogpole 01743 241924

NORTH

Cheadle THE AUDIO WORKS
14 Stockport Road
0161 428 7887

Oldham AUDIO COUNSEL
12/14 Shaw Road
0161 633 2602

Sheffield
MOORGATE ACOUSTICS
184 Fitzwilliam St
0114 275 6048

York SOUND ORGANISATION
2 Gillygate 01904 627108

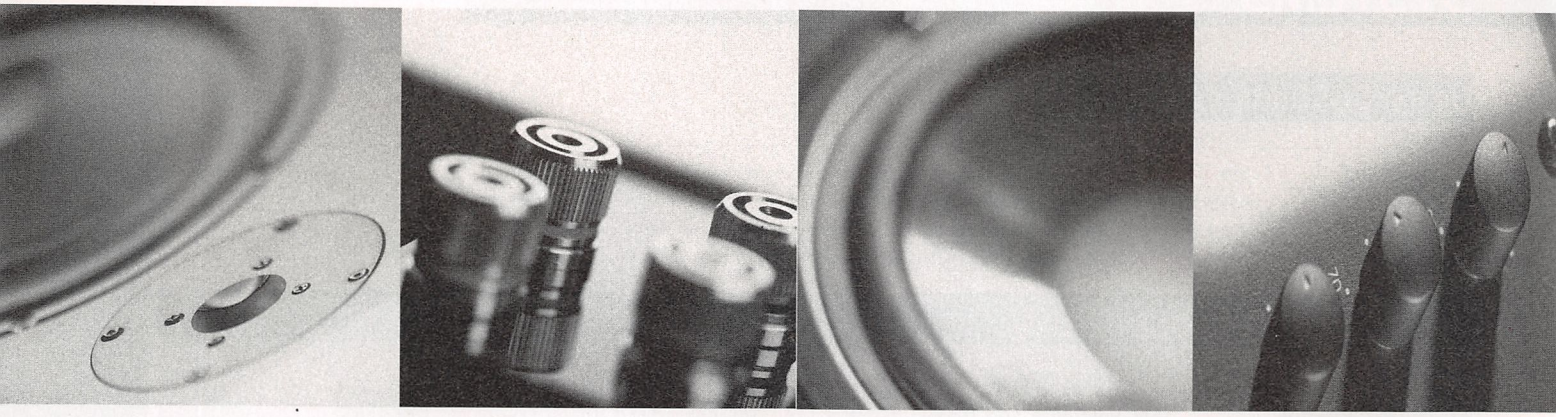
SCOTLAND

Edinburgh
RUSS ANDREWS HI-FI
34 Northumberland Street
0131 557 1672

Glasgow STEREO STEREO
260 St. Vincent Street
0141 248 4079

N. IRELAND

Belfast LYRIC HI-FI
161 Stranmillis Road
028 90 381296



Five Stars for Value

Does the best price always mean the best deal? Ask the UK's top twenty specialist hi-fi dealers.

"I thought I had this buying hi-fi business sorted out. I bought all the hi-fi magazines and read them thoroughly, because I reckoned their experts knew exactly what they were talking about - at least a lot more than I did! It was reassuring to see the same product names cropping up regularly and I figured the writers' experience and guidance would steer me straight to the system of my dreams. The trouble is I've ended up more confused than when I started.

One reviewer said a product I fancied was absolutely brilliant but another said it was nothing special at all. How can that be? Surely one CD player is pretty much the same as another? And how can a loudspeaker that's one magazine's top recommendation not get so much as a mention in any of the others? I don't mind admitting it, I'm completely lost."

Plan B — I'm going for a deal

"So, I've decided to adopt plan B. I'm sure there can't be any really dramatic differences between all this gear and it's all bound to work together properly, so I'm going to check the price lists and the adverts and shop around for the best deal. I know getting the right hi-fi is important — hey, I'm as mad about music as anyone — but if I can get close to the mark and save a few quid, I'm sure I'll end up with a good system and be happy. I know there are specialist shops out there that do demonstrations and reckon they've got all the solutions but, to be honest, I'm a bit scared of going to one. I'd really welcome some advice and guidance but I don't know all the technical jargon and I'd feel daft sitting there trying to "hear the differences" if I couldn't. Anyway, a friend told me that these shops only sell the really expensive gear and that they're not interested if you don't have loads of money to spend."

And so another hi-fi buyer starts his journey down the road to dissatisfaction, endless upgrades and a permanent overdraft.

There is only one way to buy a hi-fi system that will prove satisfying, reliable and deliver true value for money, and that's through a specialist hi-fi dealer. Let's face it, you wouldn't think about buying a car if you couldn't take it for a test drive. You wouldn't buy a house solely on the strength of seeing the estate agent's details and a photograph. Even if you're spending far less, say buying a jacket or a pair of shoes, you want to try them on to make sure they fit you.

Buying a hi-fi system is no different. It doesn't matter what the specifications say or what the "experts" think: if it doesn't measure up to what you want from a system, then it's not the right choice. Knowing that you've bought a room full of five-star favourites or best-buys is no consolation when you can't bear to listen to them for more than five minutes. Even that ten per cent discount on the price won't make them sound any better.

Buying or being sold to?

Mind you, most of us are easily suckered when it comes to buying hi-fi. Given the choice of venturing into the unknown territory of a specialist dealer's shop and exerting some influence over what we buy, or taking what looks like the easy route – having adverts and magazine reviews push us along a path sweetened with discounts and special offers – we opt for the latter. We don't buy a system, we allow ourselves to be sold one. We side-line our own ideas about quality and personal satisfaction and buy someone else's opinion of what's good for us and good value for our money.

Take control!

Now there's a group of long-established, independent specialist dealers who are totally committed to putting the customer back in the driving seat. They're encouraging the buyer to take control ... with a little help and guidance provided where required. They know how difficult it can be to establish the true quality and

UP TO £650 MICRO SYSTEMS

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	POWER	CD	DVD	MINIDISC / CD-R	TUNER	TAPE	HEADPHONES	SPEAKERS
Sony CMT-SP55MD	450	★★★★★ Sep 00	For a balance of price, features convenience and sound, this is a star.		25	1	0	M	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Sony CMT-C5	499	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Admirable sonic refinement make it worth an audition, especially if you're a MiniDisc fan.		20	1	0	M	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Technics SC-HD550	400	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	Stacked system with power and presence, but suffers from a lack of subtlety.		25	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Yamaha E150 Pianocraft	299	★★★★★ Aug 01	Upmarket look and feel, with mature musical performance to match.		25	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	2

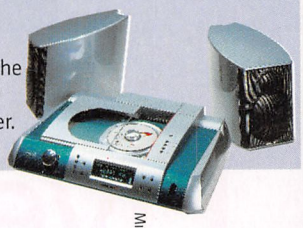
STYLE SYSTEMS BEST BUYS

up to £1200

1 **TEAC Reference 300** £600
This fab combo of mini separates includes amp, tuner, CD player and cassette – speakers are extra.
2 **Linn Classik-T** £1020

over £1200

1 **TAG Aphrodite/Calliope** £4494
Yes it costs a small fortune, but the build quality and sound of this futuristic system make it a stunner.
2 **Marantz Eclipse 55** £1300



KEY: Power The power per channel the manufacturer quotes. Bear in mind these figures can tend to be rather 'creative'
CD 1 means it's a single-disc player, larger numbers show how many discs can be loaded
DVD Some systems now use a DVD player instead of a CD player, and this trend may grow
MiniDisc/CD-R Does the system have a digital recorder built in? If so, M=MiniDisc, C=CD-R
Speakers Are they included in the price as shown? Opt means speakers are optional
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £600

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	POWER	CD	DVD	MINIDISC / CD-R	TUNER	TAPE	HEADPHONES	SPEAKERS
Marantz Eclipse 19 (inc LS110)	600	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Mini separates with serious style and a pleasure to use. Speakers can lack definition.		30	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
NAD L-40	400	★★★☆☆ Sep 98	All-in-one CD player, RDS tuner and amplifier - a fine bit of kit and neatly built.		20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
Onkyo FR-435	500	★★★★☆ May 00	Stylish, well-specified, CD, MD, receiver. A decent-sounding one-stop hi-fi solution.		30	1	0	M	Yes	0	Yes	No
Pioneer NS-8	400	★★☆☆☆ Feb 00	Stylish but rather flat-sounding system that fails to excite.		30+50	1	0	-	Yes	0	No	Yes
Sony MHC-NX5MD	550	★★★★☆ Apr 01	Classy mini-system easy to set up and use - the sound is enjoyable and undemanding.		60	5	0	M	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
TEAC Reference 100	300	★★★★★ Jan 01	Great sounding and upgradeable - a maestro in the micro stakes, you'd be mad to miss it.		20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
TEAC Reference 300	600	★★★★★ Mar 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Gorgeous looks, terrific build and great sound.		35	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes

£601–£5000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	POWER	CD	DVD	MINIDISC / CD-R	TUNER	TAPE	HEADPHONES	SPEAKERS
B&O Beocenter AV5	4650	★★★☆☆ Awd 97	Staggering price for a TV/radio/CD player but style gurus will love the design.		-	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Bose Lifestyle 20	2200	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Hi-fi at its most discreet - this flexible system sounds warm and rich and will go loud.		N/A	6	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Cyrus Quattro	850	★★★★★ Jan 01	Elegant box containing a CD, preamp and optional FM tuner - just add a power amp.		Pre/A	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
Linn Classik	1020	★★★★★ Apr 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. CD, tuner and amp all in one box.		75	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
Marantz Eclipse 55	1300	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Full-width Eclipse components - a stylish, particularly well-sorted package.		50	1	0	C	Yes	0	Yes	No
Myryad Cameo	1500	★★★★☆ Aug 00	True hi-fi separates in a user-friendly package - the Cameo has much to commend it.		50	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
Nakamichi Soundspace 5	750	★★★☆☆ Apr 00	Huge style appeal but if you want to use it as your main system add a subwoofer.		N/A	3	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Nakamichi Soundspace 8	1000	★★★★☆ Jul 99	Product of the Year in the Awards 1999. Stylish good looks and impressively musical.		20/10	5	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
TAG McLaren Aphrodite/Calli	4494	★★★★★ Sep 00	Style aplenty and performance to match. No other system is built to these standards.		50	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
TEAC Reference 500	800	★★★★★ Sep 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Superior build and sound make this still a winner.		50	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes

DOUG BRADY HIFI

Kingsway Studio Kingsway North, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 3NY Tel: 01925 828009 Fax: 01925 825773
www.DougBradyHiFi.com email: doug.brady@dougbradyhifi.com

A SELECTION OF USED OR EX DISPLAY EQUIPMENT FROM OUR STOCK.
ALL EQUIPMENT CAN BE HEARD BEFORE PURCHASE EITHER IN-STORE OR IN YOUR HOME, AND IS GUARANTEED.

SALE LIST: Ex Demonstration or Secondhand

PRE-AMPLIFIERS	NEW	STATUS	NOW
Chord CPA 1800 Black	1930	S/H	1450
Chord CPA220E Silver	2947	Ex Dem	2195
Chord CPA 3200E	4347	Ex Dem	3495
Audiolab 8000C	500	S/H	299
Audio Research LS22	4000	S/H Mint	2495
Arcam Alpha 9C	500	Boxed	395
Alchemist Forseti APD21A/2	999	Mint S/H	699
AVI S2000MC & Phono	1200	Ex Dem	799
Linx Vega	500	Ex Dem	275
Quad 99	750	Mint Dem	650
Naim 92	514	Ex Dem	395
POWER AMPLIFIERS			
Chord SPM 400 Silver	1565	Ex Dem	1299
Chord SPM 600 Black	2195	Ex Dem	1699
Chord SPM 1000B Black	2920	S/H	2199
Chord SPM 1200 C Silver	4532	Mint Dem	3699
Alchemist Forseti APD20A/2	1200	S/H	795
AVI S2000 Mono Pair	1400	Ex Dem	999
LFD Powerstage PA 'O'	500	Ex Dem	250
Quad 99	550	Mint Dem	475
Naim 140 Old Style		S/H	399
Naim 180	1185	S/H	799
Naim 90.3 Special Purchase	480	New. Boxed	399
Meridian 557	1525	Ex Dem	1195
NVA A60	560	Ex Dem	299
Tag Mclaren 60P	650	Ex Dem	499
Tag Mclaren 100P	900	Ex Dem	699
Tag Mclaren 125 Mono Pair	2400	Ex Dem	1799
INTEGRATED AMPS			
Arcam Alpha One	230	Ex Dem	179
Arcam Alpha 8R Amplifier	380	Ex Dem	320
Arcam Alpha 9	800	Ex Dem	675
Arcam Alpha AV50	500	Ex Dem	249
Exposure 2010	500	Ex Dem	399
Exposure XXV	999	Ex Dem	799
Meridian 551	845	S/H	549
Musical Fidelity XA-1	480	New Boxed	319
Naim Nait 3	650	S/H	475
NVP AP30	430	Ex Dem	249
CD PLAYERS			
Arcam Alpha 7SE	300	Ex Dem	239
Arcam Alpha 9	800	Ex Dem	649
Exposure CD Black	1000	S/H	699
Marantz CD7	3500	Ex Dem	2495
NVA CD 30	430	Ex Dem	229
Sugden CD21	999	Ex Dem	849
Audiolab Transport & DAC	2000	S/H	999
XTC Transport & DAC	2000	S/H	999
Tag Mclaren CDT20R	1500	Ex Dem	1199
LOUDSPEAKERS			
B&W P6 Red Cherry	1095	S/H	595
B&W 601/S2	230	Ex Dem	169
B&W 602/S2	300	Ex Dem	225
B&W CC6/S2 Centre	200	Ex Dem	150
B&W 603/S2	550	Ex Dem	399
B&W ASW2500	895	Ex Dem	675
B&W DM302	150	Ex Dem	115
B&W LM, inc. Bracket	200	Mint Dem	179
Canon S50	350	Ex Dem	175
Castle Kendal, Nat Oak	300	New	249
Castle Kendal, Black Ash	300	S/H	199
Castle Severn, Black	550	New	399
Castle Eden, Light Oak	500	Ex Dem	375
Castle Severn 2, Medium Oak	580	Ex Dem	399
Castle Howard	1350	Ex Dem	1075
Castle Pembroke	500	Ex Dem	395
ALSO: Quad, Kef, Celestion, Heybrook, Mission, Monitor Audio, Musical Fidelity, Rogers, Royd, Ruark, System, Tannoy, T.D.J. – *See Website*			
COMPLETE LINN ACTIVE SYSTEM			
Linn Kairn, Linn Activ X-Over, 3 X LK280, & Isobarik PMS			2695

Sources P150-176
Power P183-211
Speakers P219-229
Systems P233-237
Home Cinema P241-259
Accessories P260-267

Product Recall

Important Safety Notice

As a result of the company's regular quality control procedure, Universal Electronics / One For All (UK) Ltd is recalling adaptors of type **PB-1220-CVD** for **Remote Control Extender model SV1000**, purchased between March 1998 and June 2000.

Please return this adaptor, not the Remote Control Extender itself.

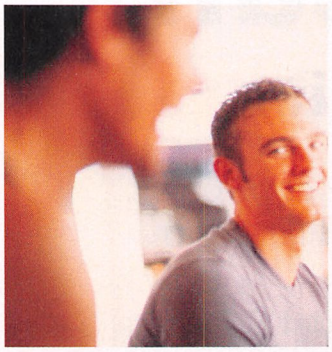
While these products are designed and manufactured to meet fully the quality and safety standards defined by UK and European regulators, a problem with a small proportion of thermal fuses fitted in the adaptor has been identified.
Fuse failure may cause overheating and a potential safety risk.
Please note that the Remote Control Extender itself is not affected.

Our primary aim is always the interest of our consumer and, as a responsible manufacturer, we request that those that have one of these adaptors please return it free of charge to One For All (UK) Ltd, Freepost (MID19753), P.O. Box 5636, Northampton, NN5 5BR.

We will dispatch a new adaptor free of charge within 24 hours, upon receipt of the faulty one.

If you are still in any doubt then please call the following
freephone helpline 0808 1000296

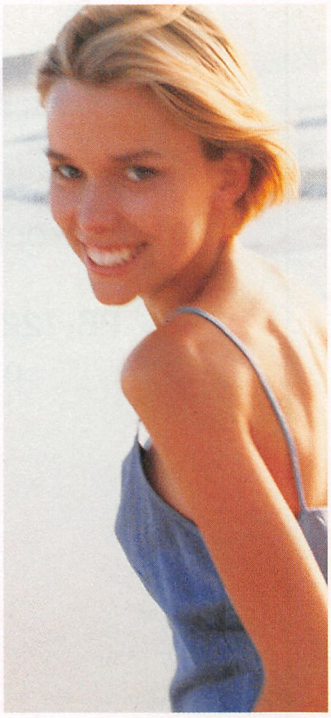
We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause and thank you for your cooperation.



Rotel

RA-1060 Amp. 60W two Channel Amp for the true audiophile. What HiFi? July 2001 said 'Great amp, couples storming sound with simplicity of operation'

£599.95 ★★★★★



Rotel

RA-931II 35W Amp, a 5 star best buy in Dec 1999 What HiFi?. They said 'Punchy amp, superb all-rounder' RRP £189.95. Special offer price

£149.95

★★★★★

B&W

Just when you thought it was impossible to improve on perfection, along comes the new B&W 6 Series Mk III. All available in Black or Oak.

B&W Loudspeakers

DM601-3 Black or Oak	**£249.95**
DM602-3 Black or Oak	**£299.95**
DM602.5-3 Black or Oak	**£399.95**
DM603-3 Black or Oak	**£599.95**
DM604-3 Black or Oak	**£799.95**
LCR60-3 Centre spkr (each)	**£199.95**
LCR600-3 Centre spkr (each)	**£349.95**

Multi-region DVD player deals

Pioneer DV-340 gold	**£229.95**
Pioneer DV-343 black	**£229.95**
Pioneer DV-444 black/silver	**£249.95**
Pioneer DV-545 silver	**£299.95**
Pioneer DV-737 black	**£449.95**
Hitachi DV-PS505 black	**£199.95**
Yamaha DVD-S520 blk/silv	**£229.95**

What Hi-Fi? Product of the Year

Marantz DV4100 OSE	**£399.95**

Wharfedale

Valdus 400 Floorstanding Speakers. 150W of sensational sound, not subtle, if you're looking for bass this is the one. RRP £199.95. Our Price.

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Denon

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Yamaha CDX596 Top-of-the-Range CD player. £129.95. Save £100.00.
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Superfi

Denon

DM30 Micro System: amp, CD, tuner and speakers (made by Mission) What HiFi?'s Product of the Year 2000. They said 'It couples cuteness with superb sound'

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including speakers (optional)

★★★★★

Also available for DM30

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CD-RM30 CD Recorder	**£199.95**

Denon Microsystem

DM50 Includes speakers	**£349.95**

Superfi stock the best What HiFi? five star award winners

★★★★★

Rotel

RC/RB971II. 70W Pre / Power amplifier combination. Five Stars Dec 2000. What HiFi? said 'Generously overspecified, clean, crisp, a lot of amp for your money'

£399.95 as a pair

★★★★★

Rotel separates

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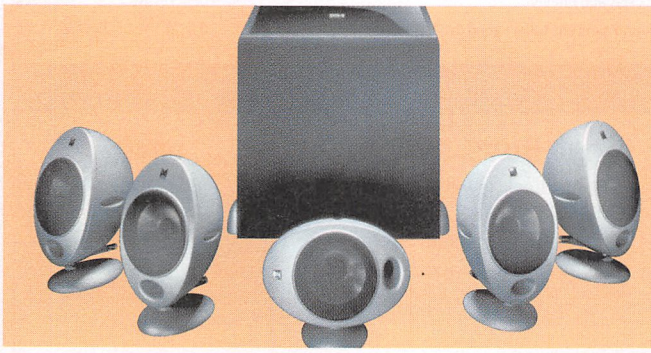
RCD971 CD player	**£469.95**



KEF

KHT 2005. Home Cinema Speaker System. Silver finish. Comprises 5 x 100W satellites and a 150W active subwoofer. Five stars in June 2001 What HiFi?. They said 'Gobsmackingly good. Could be the best sub/sat system ever'

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★★★★★

Sennheiser

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Arcam

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£399.95 ★★★★★

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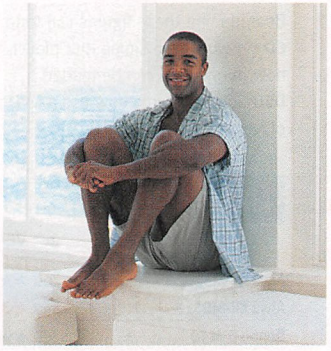

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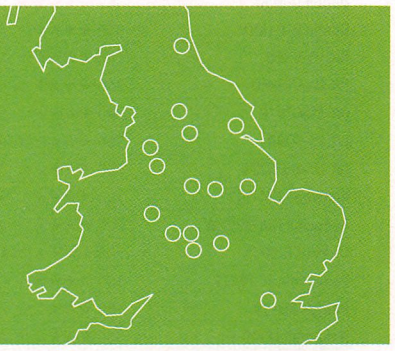

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Mini
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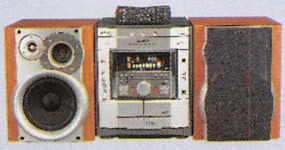
MINI SYSTEMS BEST BUYS

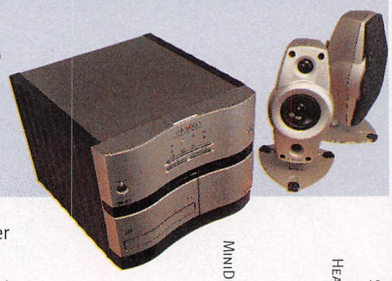
up to £350

1 **Philips MZ7** £240
2 **Aiwa XR-M700** £250
3 **JVC MD70R** £350
4 **Kenwood XD-653** £280



over £350

1 **Kenwood NV-600** £550



KEY: Power The power per channel the manufacturer quotes. Bear in mind these figures can tend to be rather 'creative' **CD** 1 means it's a single-disc player, larger numbers show how many discs can be loaded
DVD Some systems now use a DVD player instead of a CD player, and this trend may grow

MiniDisc/CD-R Does the system have a digital recorder built in? If so, M=MINIDISC, C=CD-R
Speakers Are they included in the price as shown? Opt means speakers are optional
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £550

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS							
				POWER	CD	DVD	MINIDISC / CD-R	TUNER	TAPE	HEADPHONES	SPEAKERS
Aiwa NSX-SZ50	180	★★★☆☆ Jun 00	User-friendly bit of kit with a fine CD changer, but is let down by its lean, flat sound.	75	3	0	-	Yes	2	Yes	Yes
Aiwa XR-X7	250	★★☆☆☆ Nov 01	Good-looking, low-line unit in silver and green, but it falls down thoroughly on sound.	20	1	0	C	Yes	0	Yes	2
Aiwa XR-M700	250	★★★★☆ Nov 00	Packed full of features and the sound quality is fairly competitive too.	30	3	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Alba MINI3000	100	★★☆☆☆ Jun 99	Even though this Alba only costs £100 its poor performance makes it bad value.	N/A	1	0	-	Yes	2	Yes	Yes
Goodmans 6500	180	★★★☆☆ Awd 01	Functional system, but a shining midrange performance is let down by unruly bass.	N/A	3	0	-	Yes	2	Yes	Yes
JVC G-MAX MX-J500	230	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Good-sounding little unit, with most of the gizmos you'll need in one stylish package.	100	1	0	-	No	2	Yes	Yes
JVC MD70R	350	★★★★☆ Dec 99	Apart from a few niggles this is a fine MiniDisc system - well worth an audition.	N/A	3	0	M	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Onkyo 205 Series	550	★★★☆☆ Sep 99	Expensive when partnered with suitable speakers and fails to set the music alight.	15	1	0	M	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Philips MZ7	240	★★★★★ Jul 00	Product of the Year Winner 2000. Exudes class and quality.	50	3	0	-	Yes	2	Yes	Yes
Sony DHC-MD373	350	★★★★☆ Dec 99	Fine roster of facilities including MiniDisc and a decent tuner - good dynamic sound.	30	1	0	M	Yes	0	Yes	Yes

MICRO SYSTEMS BEST BUYS

Best Buys up to £350

1 **Denon D-M30** £300 (left)
2 **Panasonic SC-PM25** £180 (right)
3 **Denon D-M50** £349
4 **Aiwa XR-MD510** £349
5 **Kenwood HM-333** £200

Best Buys over £350

1 **Sony Black Jewel CMT-MD1X** £450
2 **Sony CMT-SP55MD** £450
3 **Sony CMT-C5** £499

KEY: Power The power per channel the manufacturer quotes. Bear in mind these figures can tend to be rather 'creative' **CD** 1 means it's a single disc player, larger numbers show how many discs can be loaded
DVD Some systems now use a DVD player instead of a CD player, and this trend may grow

MiniDisc/CD-R Does the system have a digital recorder built in? If so, M=MINIDISC, C=CD-R
Speakers Are they included in the price as shown? Opt means speakers are optional
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £600

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS							
				POWER	CD	DVD	MINIDISC / CD-R	TUNER	TAPE	HEADPHONES	SPEAKERS
Aiwa XR-M500	200	★★★☆☆ Nov 00	Well equipped for the price but its mediocre CD sound quality lets it down.	30	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Aiwa XR-MD510	349	★★★★★ Aug 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. A host of features that prove their worth.	30	1	0	M	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Denon D-M30	300	★★★★★ Sep 00	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Cute and with superb sound.	20	1	0	-	Yes		Yes	Yes
Denon D-M50	349	★★★★★ Jan 01	Offers wonderful sound, stylish aesthetics and some genuinely useful features.	30	3	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Denon D-G1MD	350	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Fine piece of kit, offering good build, good looks and decent sound.	20	1	0	M	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
JVC UX-V30R	180	★★★★☆ Nov 00	Slimline style. Not just a treat for the eyes, but one for the ears too.	20	1	0		Yes	1	Yes	Yes
JVC UX-V9RMD	250	★★★★☆ Jun 00	Appealing sound, good looks and the added bonus of CD and MiniDisc combined.	14	1	0	M	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
JVC MXGT91R	300	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Not for hi-fi enthusiasts, but would make an ideal choice for pop loving teenagers.	N/A	1	0	-	Yes	2	Yes	Yes
JVC FS-SD9R	300	★★★★☆ Jul 00	Fine system, boasting both excellent design and solid performance.	15	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
JVC UX-G6R/XM	550	★★★☆☆ Apr 01	Four separates including an optional MD - sounds OK but operating it takes some learning.	20	1	0	M	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Kenwood HM-333	200	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Impressive, and if you want a tape deck, it is definitely one to put on your shortlist.	20	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Kenwood HM-982RW	600	★★★☆☆ Aug 01	Marvellous looks and useful for recording, but sound quality doesn't live up to the price.	20	2	0	C	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Onkyo CR-305X	300	★★★★☆ Feb 01	Pleasing performance from both CD and RDS tuner, but it's undercut by the competition.	20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Panasonic SC-PM25	180	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Sturdy, boasting good features and musicality - don't expect a huge amount of volume.	20	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	2
Philips MZ-33	200	★★★☆☆ Aug 01	Majors on all-out power; if you want subtlety and clarity there are better systems around.	25	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Nakamichi CMS 5	550	★★★☆☆ Apr 01	Sensibly priced and reasonable sound, but isn't exactly special. Would suit the bedroom.	25	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Sony CMT SP55TC	350	★★★★☆ Jan 00	Great-looking system which is generously equipped and capable but competition is tough.	25	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes

Sources
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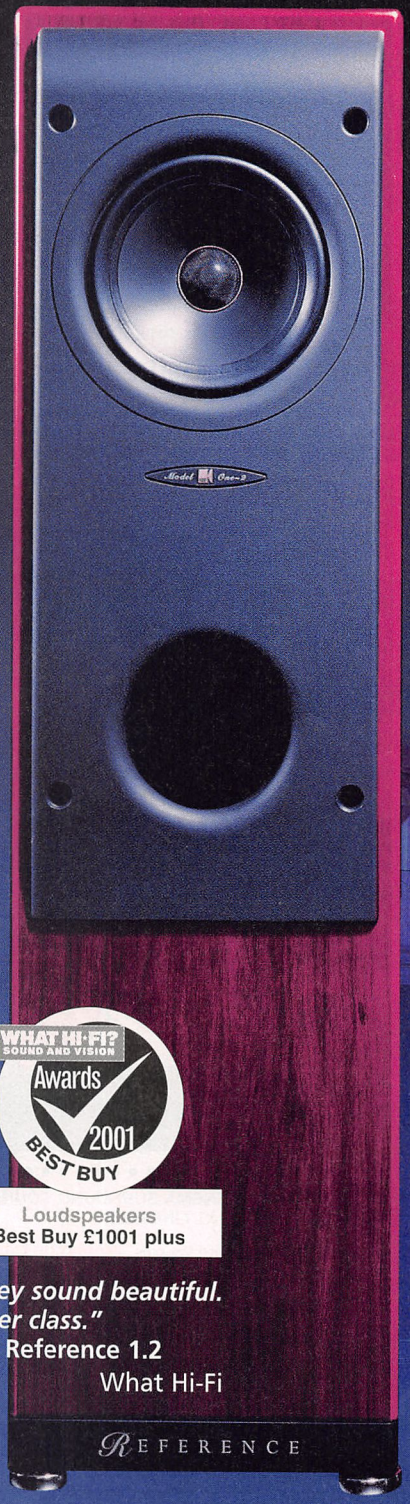

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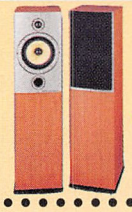

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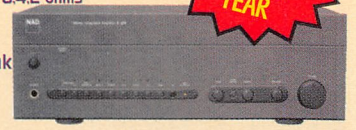

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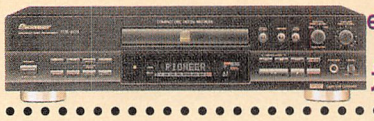

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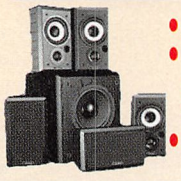

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TECHNICS SUA808	PHONE
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YAMAHA AX496	PHONE
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DENON DCD655	PHONE
DENON DCD835	PHONE
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PHILIPS CDR770	PHONE
PHILIPS CDR775	PHONE
PHILIPS CDR785	PHONE
PHILIPS CDR951	PHONE
PIONEER PD207	PHONE
PIONEER PDF958	PHONE
PIONEER PDR609	PHONE
PIONEER PDRW839	PHONE
SONY CDPCX235	PHONE
SONY CDPCX450	PHONE
SONY CDPXB930E	PHONE
SONY CDPXB930S	PHONE
SONY CDPXE270B	PHONE
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RECEIVERS

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AV SPEAKERS

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£501–£1500 Speakers (Stereo pairs)

Product	£	Verdict	We said...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power Rating	Biwirable	Height Width Depth	Finishes
Opera Callas Gold	1095	★★★☆☆ Dec 98	No all-rounders but they have superb tone and timbre which will delight with classical.	st	87.5	6	150	Yes	34.22.33	Mh
PMC TB2	700	★★★★☆ Awd 01	Great speakers, wonderful integration, but slightly lacking in low-level dynamics.	st	90	8	150	Yes	40.20.30	Va
PMC FB1	1410	★★★★★ Awd 00	Amazing speakers - these slim columns are exciting, controlled and yet a total riot.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	100.20.30	Va
Proac Tablette 2000	650	★★★★★ Aug 00	Extremely musical speaker that works well with all types of music.	sb	89	8	150	Yes	36.24.19	Va
Proac Studio 125	999	★★★★★ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Stun with their sweet treble and agile bass.	fl	89	8	150	Yes	92.28.20	Va
Quadral Phonologue Aurum-3	800	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Refined and informative, but not one that inspires on bass-driven music.	st	86	4-8	90	Yes	40.19.29	Va
Richard Allan Dimension Five 4	523	★★★☆☆ Awd 96	Not the best all-rounders but party fans will certainly enjoy the way they get stuck in.	fl	92	8	200	Yes	87.17.27	Gp
Roksan ROK One	595	★★★★☆ Nov 96	Deliver a natural sense of space that stands quite apart from the £600 crowd.	st	89	8	100	Yes	44.21.34	3
Roksan Ojan 3X	1400	★★★★☆ Dec 98	An engaging listen and brilliant bass performance; a must-hear for medium-sized rooms.	fl	88	8	250	Yes	76.28.46	Rw
Ruark Acoustics CL10	900	★★★☆☆ Awd 01	Good, but the unexciting dynamics and occasionally over-exuberant bass let them down.	sb	87	6	150	Yes	35.23.28	Va
Ruark Acoustics Solus	1250	★★★★☆ Sep 99	Very classy design which deliver bags of bass weight and never want for power.	st	90	8	200	Yes	33.21.33	Va
Sonus Faber Concertino	599	★★★★★ Aug 96	An orgy of walnut and leather, airy Concertinos sing and sound as special as they look.	st	86	8	120	Yes	22.32.29	2
Sonus Faber Concerto Homes	899	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Major on insight, worth the effort to partner sympathetically on the basis of sound.	st	88	6	200	No	36.24.32	2
Spendor SP2/3E (Classic)	1295	★★★★★ Jul 00	Special speakers - will delight with their combination of naturalness, insight and scale.	st	88	8	80	Yes	54.27.32	2
Tannoy Revolution R3	550	★★★★★ Feb 00	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Involving and refined, they put music first.	fl	89	6	170	Yes	102.18.27	Ch
Tannoy Definition D-500	1500	★★★☆☆ Jul 00	Well engineered but overall they disappoint, lacking both bass and vocal accuracy.	fl	91	6	175	Yes	93.31.34	3
Vienna Acoustics Haydn	650	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	Belting build and great with classical but they lack the boogie factor.	st	89	6	180	No	34.17.25	6

£1501–£25000

Product	£	Verdict	We said...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power Rating	Biwirable	Height Width Depth	Finishes
B&O Beolab 8000	2100	★★★☆☆ Apr 92	Crisp, delicate treble and wide stereo imaging. Deep bass but it lacks agility.	fl	-	-	A80	No	132.15.15	Al
B&W Nautilus 801	8500	★★★★★ Jan 99	An impressive speaker that possesses an enviable combination of talents.	fl	91	8	1000	Yes	111.52.69	3
BC Acoustique Nil	3140	★★★★★ Aug 99	Standmounter-style refinement and the scale and power of floorstanders.	fl	93	4	150	Yes	125.34.43	Mp
Beauhorn Virtuoso Reference	6970	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Not flawless, but in some respects they approach the status of true genius.	fl	106	8	30	No	104.34.67	2
Chario Academy 2	1649	★★★★☆ Jul 95	Visual and sonic appeal could well temp the rich and spacially-challenged.	bo	86	8	120	Yes	42.26.32	Wn
Chario Millennium 2	1800	★★★★★ Apr 99	Idiosyncratic styling which some will find OTT but terrific sonic all-rounders.	st	87	4	120	Yes	53.22.35	Wn
Cyrus Icon	2500	★★★★★ Jun 01	Fabulous looking and sounding speakers using NXT Surface Sound technology.	fl	88	6	200	Yes	27.34.30	Mp
Dali Grand CoupÈ	1555	★★★★★ Feb 97	The sound from these small cabinets is as seductive as the sweetest siren.	st	85	6	250	Yes	41.23.30	2
Definitive Technology BP-2002	2400	★★★★★ VT Dec 97	Massive power meets explosive crunch.	fl	92	8	300	Yes	109.18.38	Bk
Diapason Adamantes Ltd Ed	3995	★★★★★ Feb 98	Beautiful to behold these Italian speakers are also a sheer delight to listen to.	st	91	6	100	Yes	37.24.38	Wn
Dynaudio Confidence 5	5924	★★★★★ Nov 99	Beautifully finished and superb resolution across the board. Hugely impressive speakers.	fl	83	4	250	No	119.20.37	5
Elac CL330 Jet	2499	★★★★☆ Mar 00	Striking high-tech looks that sound good too - can lack some low-down welly.	st	88	4	120	Yes	27.19.36	Va
JBL Ti2K	1600	★★★★★ Mar 00	A terrific design that looks wonderful and offers a sound that astonishes for under £2000.	st	88	8	200	Yes	42.28.42	2
KEF Reference Model Three-Two	2250	★★★★★ Aug 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Terrific design that is worth every penny.	fl	91	4	300	Yes	114.28.34	3
Linn AV5140	2000	★★★★★ May 96	Beautifully crafted AV speakers which sound simply stunning with movies and music.	fl	90	4	N/A	Yes	98.24.32	2
Living Voice Air Scout	24500	★★★★★ Sep 97	Huge horn speakers which redefine dynamics to really put you in the sound picture.	fl	105	8	100	Yes	114.63.57	2
MAG Audio A90	3600	★★★☆☆ Aug 94	Good value despite their lofty price tag. Open and detailed character can sound magical.	fl	80	4	300	Yes	150.52.8	Va
Martin Logan Aerius I	2298	★★★★☆ Nov 99	Highly-unusual looking speakers. Nothing comes close to them for vocals and classical.	fl	89	4	200	Yes	150.25.27	Va
Meridian DSP33	2475	★★★★☆ Oct 00	Terrific concept that works extremely well in practice.	st	-	-	A50	No	40.15.23	Bk
Meridian DSP5000	3885	★★★★☆ Aug 94	Speakers with amp and DAC built in, offering a radical approach to system building.	fl	-	-	A75	No	90.21.30	2
Meridian DSP6000	10995	★★★★☆ Au Jun 91	Close to being purely digital: bass is exceptional but treble has a hint of sharpness.	fl	-	-	A75	No	133.27.43	Bk
Naim NA DBL (Passive)	11805	Au May 91	Huge and beefy sound. The PA quality is enough to make you feel your room's a club.	fl	91	6	300	No	120.65.40	6
NHT Model 2.9	2100	★★★★★ Dec 00	Stunning bass performance combined with excellent dynamics and detail. A great buy.	fl	87	6	250	No	100.18.55	2
PMC IB1	3900	★★★★★ Apr 01	Revealing and enjoyable in equal doses and will please bass fiends everywhere.	st	89	4	500	Yes	74.33.47	Va
Quad ESL-988	3400	★★★★★ Dec 00	World class - the single driver presents a fabulously together sound few rivals can match.	fl	86	8	N/A	No	94.67.32	Bk
Revel Performa F30	2895	★★★★☆ Dec 00	Fast, precise and accurate - and they can cope with huge volumes with disdainful ease.	fl	87	6	500	Yes	114.37.41	Va
Revel Ultima Gem	5295	★★★★★ Mar 98	No other speakers look or sound like these - nothing else will keep you so entertained.	st	87	6	200	Yes	50.23.44	Va
Ruark Acoustics Solstice	4500	★★★★★ Awd 98	Few speakers under £5000 can rival the Solstices' blend of power and poise.	fl	89	8	250	Yes	114.26.42	Va
Ruark Acoustics Excalibur	8000	★★★★★ Jan 99	Superbly well conceived and executed with genuine ability to communicate emotions.	fl	90	4	300	Yes	125.30.53	Va
Snell XA 90	7578	★★★☆☆ Nov 99	Supremely powerful bass masters, but they lack refinement in upper frequencies.	fl	-	-	A300	Yes	138.28.50	2
Sonus Faber Electa Amator II	2498	★★★★★ Mar 00	Fabulous, they reproduce music with a naturalness that's rarely found.	st	87	8	120	Yes	36.23.38	Wn
Spendor S8	1699	★★★★★ Nov 01	Great floorstanders - terrific performers for all types of music and good build quality.	fl	89	8	125	Yes	92.23.32	2
TAG McLaren F1 AvantGarde	14000	★★★★★ Oct 00	Breathtaking - they prove beyond doubt that their amazing shape is no gimmick.	fl	87.5	6	350	No	127.40.48	Va
Tannoy Definition D-700	2500	★★★★☆ Feb 97	Speakers with impact. Partner them well and their potent virility is startling.	fl	93	6	200	Yes	99.37.37	3
Wilson Cub 2 MG	7498	★★★★☆ Apr 01	Brilliant in many way, but their price and aggressive presentation count against them.	st	94	4	300	No	56.24.50	Bk
Wilson Benesch Discovery	5495	★★★★★ Apr 01	Innovative speakers for the music lover - appeal to the ears, eyes and heart.	fl	87	6	200	Yes	108.23.27	Gr
Wilson Benesch A.C.T One	6999	★★★★★ Jan 99	Pure, natural and free. Sublime hi-fi speakers, with rare transparency.	fl	89	6	200	Yes	108.23.27	Va
Yamamura Churchill Dionisio 27	32500	★★★★☆ Aug 96	Staggeringly clear and full of breath. They give one extraordinary dose of hi-fi high-end.	fl	96	8	N/A	No	23.14.14	Ck

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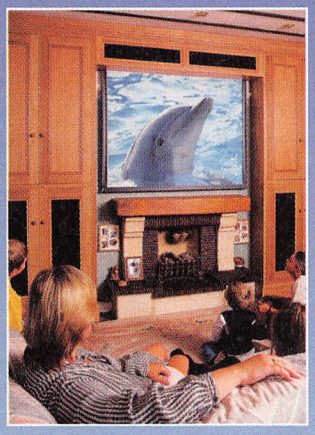

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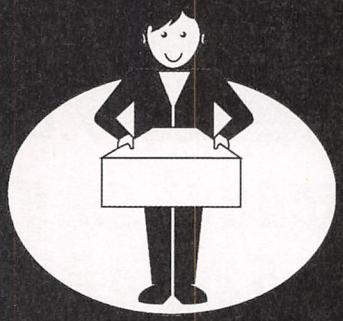
£501-£1500 Speakers (Stereo pairs)

Product	£	Verdict	We said...	The facts	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power Rating	Biwirable	Height Width Depth	Finishes
Celestion A2	899	★★★★☆ Jul 00	Produce impressive amounts of low-end power - need plenty of breathing space.		fl	90	4	220	Yes	90.24.37	3
Celestion A3	1199	★★★★★ Oct 97	A fabulous piece of furniture with big, open sound and lots of musical detail.		fl	90	4	300	Yes	113.28.40	3
Chario Constellation Lynx	550	★★★★☆ Awd 99	Fine speakers for the price with great dynamics and great looks. Need careful matching.		st	87	4	100	Yes	36.20.26	Wn
Chario Academy Millennium 1	1400	★★★★☆ Sep 99	Beautifully refined and detailed-sounding, not for fans of bass-heavy music.		sb	86	4	150	Yes	37.21.31	Wn
Cura CA10	699	★★★★☆ Apr 99	Impressive speakers with superb treble and midrange presence.		st	87	8	120	Yes	35.22.24	7
Cyrus CLS70	800	★★★★★ Apr 01	Refined and weighty performers - use with fast, precise-sounding electronics.		st	85	8	150	Yes	33.22.30	Mp
Dali Evidence 370	519	★★★☆☆ Nov 99	Adorable in appearance but they miss out sonically, lacking the cohesion of rival designs.		sb	87.5	5	150	Yes	37.21.26	2
Dali Evidence 470	859	★★★★☆ Apr 00	Suffer from a slightly flat sound but deliver plenty of information and look stylish.		fl	90	4	200	Yes	97.22.31	3
Diapason Karis	995	★★★★☆ Dec 99	Beautiful and sweet sounding - if you think sculpture and hi-fi can mix, take a listen.		st	87	6	80	Yes	29.19.26	Wn
Dynaudio Audience 52	557	★★★★★ Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Formidable array of talents - great with all musical genres.		st	86	4	150	No	33.20.26	3
Dynaudio Audience 50 MkII	577	★★★★★ Aug 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Excellent, deliver a gutsy and dynamic performance.		st	86	4	150	No	33.24.25	3
Dynaudio Audience 62	729	★★★★☆ Jun 01	Fine speakers, but they don't quite match the standards of their stand-mounted siblings.		fl	86	4	150	No	86.20.26	3
Dynaudio Audience 60	730	★★★★★ Feb 00	Among the best speakers at this price - well-rounded sonic performance.		fl	86	4	150	No	80.24.20	3
Dynaudio Contour 1.1	879	★★★★☆ Dec 99	Diminutive size, their punchy and bass-loving nature will appeal to high-end rockers.		st	87	4	150	No	31.17.28	Va
Dynaudio Audience 72	1100	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Deliver bass and dynamics in spades - give them a listen. Wrap on cabinets lacks class.		fl	86	4	210	No	96.20.26	3
Dynaudio Audience 70	1100	★★★★★ Sep 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Deliver wonderfully dynamic sound.		fl	87	4	210	No	90.26.20	3
Dynaudio Contour 1.3 MkII	1198	★★★★☆ Jul 00	Fine speakers, unfussy, and play all genres with equal ease.		st	87	4	150	No	38.20.29	5
Dynaudio Audience 82	1460	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Monster speakers that know the meaning of sensitivity. A rare breed.		fl	87	4	300	No	106.22.36	3
Eltax Camargue	799	★★★☆☆ May 01	Appealing speakers but not as revealing as some rivals.		fl	90	4	150	Yes	87.19.18	Bk
Epos M15	679	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Few rivals are better at communicating the musical message.		fl	88	8	100	Yes	82.20.25	Ch
Epos ES30	1250	★★★★★ Oct 97	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1997. Excel in providing a big dynamic sound.		fl	88	6	300	Yes	90.23.34	Ch
Ethos Acoustics LS5/12B	1495	★★★★☆ Jul 00	Exacting and conjure up a surprising amount of bass weight. Need a little more soul.		st	83	8	130	Yes	30.19.21	Va
Final Acoustics 0.3	1495	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Electrostatic speakers that give a cultured sound with bags of finesse and look stunning.		fl	86	4	80	Yes	120.27.40	Va
Harbeth HL-P3ES Mk 2	799	★★★★★ Jul 98	Make beautiful music in unflappable style. These speakers are an audiophile's dream.		st	83	6	120	Yes	30.18.20	2
Harbeth HL-Compact 7ES	1299	★★★★★ Sep 99	Superb, managing to sound 'right' with all types of music and magical with vocals.		st	86	8	150	Yes	52.27.32	3
Indigo Four	750	★★★★☆ Jun 00	Involving - communicate the musical message well despite slight shortcomings.		fl	88	8	175	Yes	85.21.28	Ch
Jamo X 850 (was X3M8)	600	★★★☆☆ Jul 99	Excellent in the low frequency department but they have a brittle, harsh treble.		fl	90	4	150	No	87.18.36	Gry
Jamo D 830 (was Concert 8)	1400	★★★★★ Sep 99	Beautifully built and engineered, and delivering a superbly dynamic sound.		sb	90	4	120	Yes	38.24.31	Mh
JBL XTi40	529	★★★☆☆ May 01	Offer a lot of technology for the money, but sonically their performance fails to inspire.		fl	87	6	100	Yes	80.23.30	3
JM Lab Cobalt 806 C/T/S	529	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	Packed with some cutting-edge ingredients but they can rob music of life.		st	90	8	75	Yes	88.22.27	Va
JM Lab Cobalt 816 C/T/S	859	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Will flatter rough recordings, but they need more attack and drive.		fl	91	8	125	Yes	98.22.30	Va
KEF Reference Model One-Two	1200	★★★★★ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Gorgeous looks and flawless sound.		fl	89	4	150	Yes	86.23.30	3
KEF RDM Three	1500	★★★★☆ Mar 99	Highly accomplished loudspeakers with a classy finish and revealing sound.		fl	90	4	200	Yes	100.23.27	2
Klipsch RF-3	750	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	Few can better when it comes to bass impact but they have an overly enthusiastic sound.		fl	98	8	150	No	98.23.41	Bk
Linn Tukan (Passive)	550	★★★★☆ Jul 95	While the bass isn't exactly seismic, it's fast and powerful; best used close to a wall.		bo	87	4	60	Yes	30.19.18	Va
Linn Katan	600	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Involving and entertaining performer that works well with a wide range of music.		st	85	8	N/A	Yes	34.17.23	4
Linn Keilidh (Passive)	750	★★★☆☆ Feb 00	Stunning build but sonically they disappoint, lacking both precision and grip.		fl	86	4	80	Yes	62.20.27	2
Linn Ninka	895	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Unusual shape and beautifully finished but their sonic performance is only average.		fl	90	4	N/A	Yes	98.25.28	3
Magnat Vintage 710	899	★★★★☆ Feb 00	First rate as detailed monitors, but their rather brusque nature limits their mass appeal.		sb	90	4	200	Yes	42.27.31	Va
Mission 782	700	★★★★★ Apr 01	Not for headbangers, but otherwise these are some of the best speakers at the price.		fl	89	8	200	Yes	80.17.30	3
Mission 783	1000	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Can bang out the bass with the best, but are subtle-sounding too.		fl	90	6	200	Yes	97.21.32	3
Monitor Audio Silver 8i	700	★★★★★ Apr 01	Produce music with plenty of excitement - but they don't forget the subtlieties too.		fl	90	8	175	Yes	85.20.35	4
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 10	799	★★★★★ Aug 01	Few speakers just 36cm tall are capable of a sound with quite so much conviction.		st	88	8	100	Yes	36.20.27	4
Monitor Audio Studio 20SE	1400	★★★★☆ Oct 98	Fast, tight and very explicit - our long-term reference speakers further refined.		fl	88	8	120	Yes	91.20.26	5
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 20	1499	★★★★★ Mar 01	Immensely accomplished speakers - fast and dynamic sound with bags of resolution.		fl	89	6	150	Yes	93.20.30	4
Musical Technology PM15 Prof.	550	★★★★☆ Sep 99	Refined speakers with good dynamics and detail but they lack drive with up-tempo music.		sb	88	6	100	Yes	43.21.15	4
Neat Critique	545	★★★★☆ Sep 98	Highly enjoyable-sounding speakers, they get straight to the heart of the music.		st	86	8	100	Yes	33.23.22	2
Neat Mystique 2 (Cherry)	795	★★★★☆ Jul 98	Clean, crisp and coherent - particularly adept with lighter musical styles.		fl	86	8	150	Yes	84.20.18	2
Neat Elite	1275	★★★☆☆ Jul 00	Not bad speakers but they have too many flaws to make an impact.		fl	87	8	150	Yes	90.20.18	2
NHT SuperTwo	550	★★★★☆ Awd 00	Superbly open and informative midrange performance but needs more punch in the bass.		fl	87	8	175	Yes	99.18.25	Bk



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STEREO PAIRS
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SPEAKERS
STEREO PAIRS
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UP TO £500 SPEAKERS (STEREO PAIRS)

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	TYPE	SENSITIVITY	IMPEDANCE	POWER RATING	BIWIRABLE	HEIGHT WIDTH DEPTH	FINISHES
Richard Allan Minette 4	149	★★★☆☆	May 98	Smooth, mellow and laidback but off the pace when it comes to plucking out detail.	st	87	8	100	Yes	33.17.20	Gp
Richard Allan Dimension Five 1C.	190	★★★☆☆	Jan 97	Manage undemanding music but haven't the clarity to make the most of complex works.	st	89	8	100	Yes	34.17.22	Gp
Richard Allan Minette 3	194	★★★☆☆	Dec 97	An attractive, compact speaker at a knockdown price, but there's better value elsewhere.	fl	87	8	70	No	70.17.23	Gp
Richard Allan Dimension Five 1	264	★★★☆☆	Dec 95	Flowing power appeals but well-mannered sound fails to live up to their devilish looks.	fl	89	8	100	Yes	72.17.22	Gp
Richard Allan Dimension Five 3	421	★★★☆☆	Jun 97	For 'big bass, small box' they are impressive but fast and informative they're not.	fl	92	6	175	Yes	72.17.27	Gp
Ross RWS851	70	★★☆☆☆	Aug 98	Cordless FM speakers - a cheap way of extending your hi-fi into another room.	sb	-	-	A10	No	30.17.22	Bk
Sequence Model 400	300	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Can't handle everything, but it's wall-hanging that's central to their appeal.	wa	89	8	100	Yes	100.25.7	6
Sonance Mariner 100	300	★★★★★	Aug 99	If you require a touch of hi-fi class for your outdoor listening these have it.	wl	88	8	60	No	19.28.18	Wt
Sony SS-86E	100	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Sound smooth and full-bodied yet deliver bags of thrills. Warrant a serious listen.	st	85	6	70	No	32.19.24	BA
Tannoy Mercury mX1	120	★★★★☆	Jun 00	Good speakers with great stereo imaging, but outshone by the mX2s at only £30 more.	st	87	8	70	No	30.17.22	2
Tannoy Mercury mX2	150	★★★★★	Jun 00	Excellent sounding speakers offering excellent imaging, resolution and refinement.	st	88	8	80	Yes	33.19.25	2
Tannoy Revolution R1	200	★★★★☆	Jan 00	Refined speakers that put in a superb performance with vocals and classical.	bo	87	8	70	Yes	30.17.20	Ch
Tannoy Mercury mX3	230	★★★★☆	Apr 00	Articulate and open performers and fine value, but their finish could be better.	fl	89	8	120	Yes	85.19.24	2
Tannoy Revolution R2	400	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Beautifully built, they have a full and weighty sound though lack sonic versatility.	fl	88	6	150	Yes	92.17.24	Ch
Technics SB-M20	200	★★★★☆	Aug 95	Marvellous with well-recorded acoustic tracks. Not the same energy with rock.	st	89	6	50	No	32.20.23	Bk
Vivanco FMS 7000	80	★★☆☆☆	Aug 98	Cordless FM speakers - a cheap way of sending music to another part of the house.	sb	-	-	A5	No	18.17.17	Bk
Wharfedale Diamond 8.1	120	★★★★★	Jul 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Sound that satisfies all round - great for smaller rooms.	bo	86	6	100	Yes	30.20.18	2
Wharfedale Diamond 8.2	150	★★★★★	Jul 01	Refined and insightful performers - these speakers are a credit to the Diamond name.	st	86	6	100	Yes	36.21.26	2
Wharfedale Diamond 8.3	200	★★★★★	Aug 01	Superb floorstanders and they will suit a variety of systems, to boot.	fl	86	6	100	Yes	80.21.26	2
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-10	250	★★★★★	Mar 01	Accomplished all-rounder that is set to worry the class leaders at this price point.	bo	86	6	120	No	41.22.28	Bc
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-20	350	★★★★☆	May 01	Elegant and sturdy - with electronic-based music they are right up with the best.	fl	87	6	120	No	91.22.28	2
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-40	500	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Fine-sounding and refined design let down by poor aesthetics and finish on the tweeter.	fl	89	6	200	Yes	110.22.37	2
Yamaha NS-90	180	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Good in parts, but they are too flawed to be considered top contenders.	sb	89	6	200/60	Yes	31.17.18	Bk
Yamaha NS-100	230	★★★☆☆	Aug 00	Inoffensive, smooth and warm, but their overly restrained sound lets them down.	sb	90	6	300/100	Yes	21.42.27	Ch
Yamaha NS-200	330	★★★★★	May 01	Truly excellent - blend detail, dynamics and sheer power to fabulous effect.	fl	90	6	300/100	Yes	21.85.32	Ch
Yamaha NS-300	430	★★★☆☆	Mar 01	Major on clarity and control and there's plenty of slam to hand, but they lack emotion.	fl	91	6	400/140	Yes	21.90.32	Ch
ZYP A1 Unshielded	229	★★★☆☆	Aw 92	Tiny, with dynamic sound quality which is best suited to rock. Need a meaty amp.	st	86	8	50	No	22.14.12	2

£501–£1500 SPEAKERS

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	TYPE	SENSITIVITY	IMPEDANCE	POWER RATING	BIWIRABLE	HEIGHT WIDTH DEPTH	FINISHES
Acoustic Energy AE1 MkII	845	★★★★★	Dec 99	The design may be old but it's a good'un. Astonishing sound from such small speakers.	st	89	8	200	Yes	30.18.26	3
Acoustic Precision Eikos FR1	800	★★★★☆	Dec 99	Kings of resolution and soundstaging - few others can match them at this price.	st	87	6	70	No	N/A	Va
ALR/Jordan Entry 5M	550	★★★☆☆	Sep 98	Can certainly perk up a lifeless system but the competition is strong at this price.	fl	90	6	120	No	99.21.30	2
ALR/Jordan Note 3	1000	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Have an air of elegance and for the money their performance is far from disappointing.	st	90	6	120	Yes	37.25.32	3
Arcaydis AK4	699	★★★★☆	May 00	Superb build and engaging sound with a great treble performance.	fl	88	8	100	Yes	70.19.24	Va
Ark Model One	900	★★★☆☆	Jun 98	Attractive and involving speakers which need careful matching, but can sound great.	st	88	8	80	Yes	44.25.37	Va
ATC SCM10-2 Active	999	★★★★★	Awd 01	Highly accomplished monitors that prove that active speakers have much to offer.	st	-	-	A220/50	No	39.23.31	Sl
Audio Note AZ-Three	800	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Downright stunning when fed the right kind of music. Rockers may find they lack punch.	fl	94	6	100	Yes	100.35.30	Va
Audiovector C2	599	★★★☆☆	Jul 99	Pleasant, with much to admire, but low-end lacks control. Best suited to classical music.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	105.19.25	4
AVI Pro-Nine	699	★★★★★	Nov 01	Terrific - crystal clear presentation that gives the listener real insight.	fl	89	8	250	No	310.20.25	2
B&W CM2	550	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Dig up the detail but they aren't rounded enough to worry the leading pack.	st	89	8	120	Yes	33.20.28	2
B&W CDM1NT	750	★★★★★	Apr 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Capable of sonic magic - their ability is formidable.	st	88	8	120	Yes	39.22.29	3
B&W CM4	895	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Top technology and tasteful looks, but they only come to life at high volumes.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	91.20.29	2
B&W CDM7NT	1250	★★★★☆	Jan 01	Excellent dynamics and resolution, stunning speed but not true all rounders.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	95.22.29	3
B&W Nautilus 805	1400	★★★★☆	Apr 99	Gorgeous-looking and will impress with their seamless sound.	sb	88	8	120	Yes	42.24.34	3
Boston Acoustics VR950	599	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	Smooth, powerful sound from slim cabinets but too bland to take on the competition.	fl	90	8	150	No	97.17.31	Gr
Boston Acoustics VR-M50	699	★★★★☆	Apr 01	Beautifully cohesive midrange and sweet treble but lower frequency reach is limited.	bo	89	8	150	Yes	25.18.23	2
Castle Harlech S2	999	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Beautiful and well-built, they major on speed and resolution.	fl	88	8	150	Yes	94.20.32	9
Castle Howard S3	1249	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Beautiful craftsmanship and solid performance. Well worth an audition.	fl	88	8	175	Yes	99.21.32	9

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Area	Shop	Phone No.
Aberdeen	Holburn HiFi	01224 - 585 713
Basingstoke	Audio T	01256 - 324 311
Birmingham	Music Matters	0121 - 742 0254
Bristol	Audio Excellence	0117 - 926 49 75
Cardiff	Audio Excellence	02920 - 228 565
Cheltenham	Audio T	01242 - 583 960
Chester	Audio Excellence	01244 - 345 576
Darlington	HiFi Experience	01325 - 481 418
Epsom	Audio T	01372 - 748 888
Exeter	Audio Excellence	01392 - 491 194
Glasgow	Glasgow Audio	0141 - 332 47 07
Gloucester	Audio Excellence	01452 - 300 046
Hastings	Adams & Jarret	01424 - 437 165

Dynaudio UK: 01732 - 45 19 38

Area	Shop	Phone No.
High Wycombe	Audio T	01494 - 558 585
Hull	Zen Audio	01482 - 587 397
London (N)	Audio T	0207 - 794 7848
London (N)	Bartletts Hifi	0207 - 607 21 48
Manchester	Practical HiFi	0161 - 839 88 69
Norwich	Martins HiFi	01603 - 627 010
Oxford	Audio T	01865 - 765 961
Reading	Audio T	0118 - 958 54 63
Southampton	Audio T	02380 - 252 827
Stour Bridge	Music Matters	01384 - 444 184
Swansea	Audio Excellence	01792 - 474 608
Worcester	Audio Excellence	01905 - 619 059
Worthing	Phase 3 HiFi	01903 - 245 577

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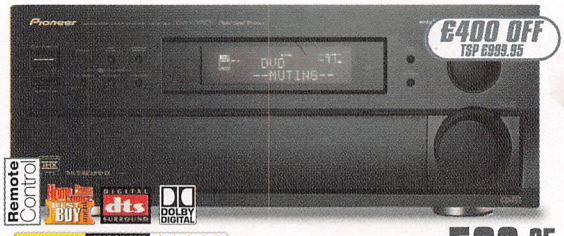

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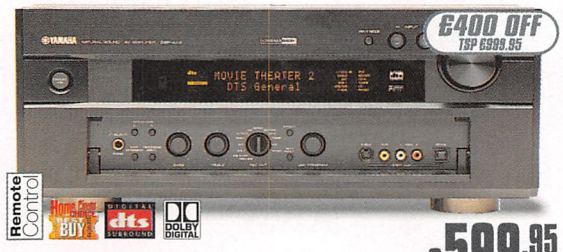

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Pioneer DV737 Multi-Region £429.95 **£379.95**

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Sony DAVS800
Multi-Region £749.95
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Technics SCHDA710
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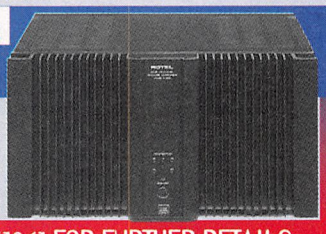
ROTEL

RMB 1095



- THX ULTRA POWER AMP
- 5x200w

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AMPS

- RA931 MKII
- RA971 MKII
- RA 972
- RA 1060
- RC 971
- RB 971 MKII
- RC 1070
- RB 1070
- RB 1080
- RB 1090

CD PLAYERS

- RCD 951
- RCD 971
- RCD 991
- RCC 955

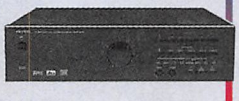
TUNERS

- RT1080

AV AMPS

- RB 993
- RB976 MKII
- RMB 1075
- RMB 1095
- RSP 966
- RSP 976
- RSX 972

ROTEL RSD 985



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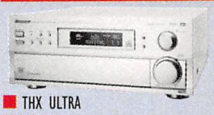
Pioneer AUTHORISED DEALER

Pioneer VSX-909R



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- DTS-ES
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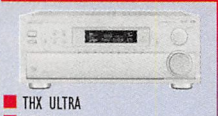
Pioneer VSA-E08



- THX ULTRA
- DTS-ES
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Pioneer AV AMPS

VSA-E08	VSX-909 RDS
VSA-E07	VSX-859 RDS
M10X	VSX-839 RDS
VSX D810	VSX-709 RDS
VSX D710	VSX-609 RDS
VSX D510	VSX-409 RDS
VSX C300	

Pioneer Multiplay CD

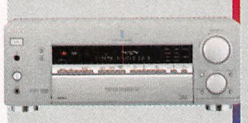
- PD-F1007
- PD-F1009

CD R

- PDR-W839
- PDR-609

SONY SEPARATES

SONY STRDB1070



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- STR-DE870
- STR-DB1070
- STR-VA555ES
- STR-DE375
- STR-DE475
- TAP 9000ES
- TAE 9000ES
- TAN 9000

SACD

- SCD-XE 670
- SCD-XE 770
- SCD-XA333ES
- SCD-XA777ES
- SCD1

AMPS

- TA-FB940
- TA-FA777ES
- TA-E1
- TA-N1
- TA-FE230
- TA-FE370
- TA-FE570
- TA-FB740
- TA-FB940

MINI DISK

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- MDS-JE470
- MDS-JE770
- MDS-JB940
- MDS-JA333ES
- MDS-JA555ES
- MXD-D40
- MXD-D5C
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- CDP-XE370
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- CDP-CX450
- CDP-CE375

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- SS-AL5MK2
- SS-LA500EA
- SS-MF400H
- SS-MB200H
- SA-VE705
- SA-VE815

TUNERS

- ST-SE370
- ST-SE570
- ST-SB920
- ST-SA3ES
- ST-D777ES

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- TC-KB820S
- TC-KB920
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AE 100 CHERRY
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NS-C105	YST-SW320
NS-C120	YST-SW800
NS-C-200C	NS-90
NS-C300C	XS-120
NS-P60	XS-100C
NS-P220	NS-150
NS-P610	NS-200C
NS-100SC	NS-300C
YST-SW105	NS-35C
YST-SW205	NS-45EC

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D6 SUB	E8 SUR
E8 SUB	E6 SUR
E6 SUB	E4 SUR
E4 SUB	D7 SUR
SW410E	D6 SUR
SW708	D5 SUR
SW1008	
SW2010	CENTRE
	D8 CEN
THX	E8 CEN
THX D6	E6 CEN
TXX D7	E4 CEN
	X8 CEN
	D5 CEN

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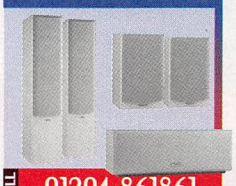

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MX2	R2
MX3	R3
MX4	RC
MXC	
MXR	
MXSUB	

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KENWOOD KRF-V7050D

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■ 5x100w
■ PROLOGIC 2

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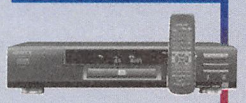
KENWOOD KRF-V5030



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■ 5x80w ■ 6 CHANNEL INPUT

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KENWOOD

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KRF-5052 KSW-S	KRF-V7050D
KRF-5052 KSW	KRF-V5050D-S
KRF-V5050D	
DVD PLAYERS	
DVF-R9030	DVF-7030B
DVF-4050	DVF-3550
DVF-3050	

DENON

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■ LEARNING REMOTE

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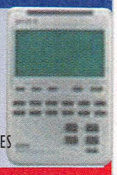
SONY RM-AV2100T



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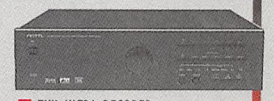
ROTEL RSP985



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ROTEL AMPS

RSX965	RB976
RB985	RB991
RB993	RB1090
RMB1095	RSP966
RSP985	RDV 985

ROTEL DVD PLAYERS

RDV985

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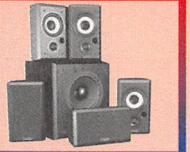
mission CINEMA 6



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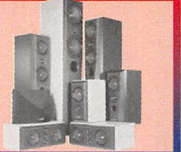
77 CINEMA PACK



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772	M72	FS 2-3
773E	M73	FS 2-3V
774	M74	FS 2-A
775	M7C	FS 2-AV
77C1	M7DS	FS 2-5
77DS	7AS1	7AS2

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C28WF535N
C32WF530N
C32WF535N
C32WF727N
C32WF810N
C36WF810N
C36WF830N

JVC
AV-24WT5
AV-28WT5
AV-28WT1
AV-32WT1
AV-28
AV-28S2
AV-32S2
AV-32WL1
AV-28X10
AV-32P10
AV-28WFR1
AV-32WFR1
AV-32WFP1

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ACCONDA 9381ZW
PLANUS 4781Zp
XELOS 5381ZW
VITROS 6381ZW

PANASONIC
TX24DX1
TX28DX1
TX28DX2
TX28PL1
TX32PL1
TX28PL4
TX32PL4
TX28PG45
TX28DTZ
TX28DTS1
TX32DK1
TX32DK2
TX28PL10
TX32PL10
TX36PL10
TX32PG30
TX32PG50
TX32PT2
TX32DTS1
TX36PG50

PHILIPS
24PW6006
28PW6006
32PW6006
28PW6315
32PW6315
28PW6515
32PW6515
28PW6526
32PW6526
32PW9525
36PW9525
28PW6816
28PW6826
32PW6826
28PW9616
32PW9616
28PW9536
32PW9536
32PW9546
32PW9556
32PW9566
32PW9576
28DW9625
32DW9625

SONY
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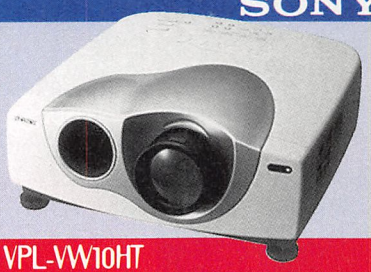
KV-28LS35
KV-32LS35
KV-28FX65
KV-32FX65
KV-28FQ75
KV-32FQ75
KV-36FS70
KV-28DX30
KV-32DX30
KV-28DS65
KV-32DS65

TOSHIBA
28W93B
28WD98B
28205B
28Z06B
32Z13B
28Z07B
32Z17B
32ZD09B
32ZP18B
36ZP18B

FRONT PROJECTORS & PLASMA SCREENS

SONY



VPL-VW10HT

Pioneer

PDP-502M

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PANASONIC	**TOSHIBA**
PT-LC50E	MT1 "Special Scoop"
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SELECO	
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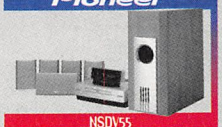
PDS-4213	50PD1
PDS-4214	
PDS-4221	**PANASONIC**
PDS-4222	TH42PW3B
HITACHI	**PHILIPS**
CL32-PD2100	32PF9964
PIONEER	42PF9952
PDP-502M	42P

DVD SYSTEMS & DVD PLAYERS

Pioneer



NSDV55

HITACHI
HTD-KI50
JVC
TH-A9R
TH-A10R
PANASONIC
SC-HT70
SC-HT80
PIONEER
NS-DVSS
NS-DV77
NS-DV88
SONY
DAVS300
DAVS500
DAVS800

DVD PLAYERS

Pioneer

DV340

ARCAM	DIVA DV88
HITACHI	DV-W1E
HITACHI	DV-P305
HITACHI	DV-P505
HITACHI	DV-P705
JVC	XV-D723
JVC	XV-D721
JVC	XV-D701
JVC	XV-522SL
JVC	XV-M567GD
JVC	XV-540
JVC	XV-E100SL
PANASONIC	
DVD	RV31EBS
DVD	RV41EBS
DVD	RV61EBS
DVD	RV71EBS
DVD	PV40EBS
DVD	LV60EBS
DVD	LV70EBS
PHILIPS	DVD622
PHILIPS	DVD712
PHILIPS	DVD762
PHILIPS	DVD870
PHILIPS	DVD958
PHILIPS	DVDQ40/50
PHILIPS	DVD1010
PHILIPS	SACD962
PHILIPS	SACD1000
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PIONEER	DV343
PIONEER	DV444
PIONEER	DV545
PIONEER	DV646A
PIONEER	DV737
PIONEER	DVL919
PIONEER	DV939
PIONEER	PDV20
PIONEER	PDV-LC20
ROTEL	RDV995
ROTEL	RDV1080
SHARP	DV-L805
SONY	DVP-NS300
SONY	DVP-NS400
SONY	DVP-S435
SONY	DVP-S735
SONY	DVPS9000ES
SONY	DVP-CX860
SONY	DVP-NC600
SONY	DVP-FS
SONY	DVP-FX1
TOSHIBA	SD110/210/510
TOSHIBA	SD900E
TOSHIBA	PD1
YAMAHA	DVDS510
YAMAHA	DVDS796
YAMAHA	DVDC996

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SPEAKERS
STEREO PAIRS
PAGE 219

UP TO £500 SPEAKERS (STEREO PAIRS)

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS						
				TYPE	SENSITIVITY	IMPEDANCE	POWER RATING	BIWIRABLE	HEIGHT WIDTH DEPTH	FINISHES
Heybrook HB1 2000 Series	180	★★★★★ Aug 00	Refined and cultured sound, their tuneful low-end and smooth treble will appeal to many.	sb	90	6	75	Yes	37.21.23	2
Heybrook HB2 2000 Series	230	★★★★☆ Nov 00	Fine dynamics and scale, but not balanced enough really to worry the class leaders.	sb	90	6	100	Yes	43.24.29	2
Heybrook HB4 2000 Series	500	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Capable speakers that excel with voices but are a little too polite so lack sparkle.	fl	90	6	150	Yes	100.24.29	2
Indigo One	330	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Attractive speakers that have certain style, but they aren't great all-rounders.	sb	88	8	100	Yes	27.20.27	Ch
Indigo Three	500	★★★★☆ Oct 00	Terrifically musical, they emphasise the music rather than any technical wizardry.	sb	90	8	150	Yes	30.23.31	Ch
Infinity Alpha 10	165	★★★☆☆ Jan 01	Well-built and smooth sounding though resolution disappoints. Uncompetitively priced.	st	88	8	80	No	32.18.26	3
Infinity Alpha 20	199	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Swish looks and bags of scale, but they lack attack when it counts.	st	89	8	100	Yes	38.22.28	3
Jamo E 410 (was Studio 130)	120	★★☆☆☆ Oct 99	Very disappointing speakers with poorly integrated sound and poor finish.	sb	91	6	N/A	No	41.26.20	2
Jamo E800	200	★★★★☆ Awd 00	Enjoyable and exciting but there are more honest and detailed speakers at this price.	sb	88	4	100	Yes	35.18.29	3
Jamo Indoor/Outdoor 3	260	★★★★☆ Aug 99	Well-rounded, highly-pleasing all-weather patio playthings.	wl	88	8	120	No	29.19.17	Bk
Jamo E850	300	★★★☆☆ Oct 00	Dynamic and musical but their shortcomings outweigh their strengths.	fl	89	6	200	Yes	86.34.17	3
Jamo A 510 (was called Art)	300	★★★★☆ May 93	Potentially bass heavy delivery. Use away from walls for relaxed, even-handed sound.	wl	88	8	60	No	35.40.9	2
Jamo A 610 (was called Graphic)	400	★★★☆☆ Oct 94	These speakers are designed to be hung on the wall. Sound smooth with plenty of bass.	wl	88	8	60	No	44.39.8	Bk
JBL LX2002	200	★★★★★ Sep 01	A return to the glory days when JBL's speakers were the rocker's weapon of choice.	st	89	6	125	Yes	30.20.24	3
JBL XTi20	429	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Refinement and finesse aplenty and create a fine sense of scale but they lack excitement.	st	87	6	100	Yes	38.23.30	3
JM Lab Chorus 705	179	★★★★★ Jul 01	Supremely enjoyable design and definitely one for the shortlist.	st	38.5	8	60	No	30.18.20	Va
JM Lab Chorus 706	229	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Solid speakers that are well worth an audition. Bass can be slightly woolly.	st	39.5	8	75	No	37.20.26	Va
JM Lab Chorus 710	329	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Very good speakers with a lot of class but they're not as punchy as their best rivals.	fl	39.5	8	80	No	85.20.27	Va
JPW Mini Monitor	60	★★★★☆ Aw 93	In a small room their presentation is open and detailed and bass acceptably taut.	st	87	6	70	No	27.18.17	Bk
JPW Millennium ML 210i	100	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Dynamic and musical speakers that make for an enjoyable listen.	sb	89	6	70	No	31.18.17	2
JPW Millennium ML 310i	120	★★★★☆ Oct 99	A fine budget design, with pleasant and engaging sound.	sb	89	6	70	Yes	31.18.17	Bk
JPW Millennium ML 410i	130	★★★★☆ Jan 01	Rich, powerful performance but can't match refinement of rivals.	sb	89	6	70	No	33.22.20	2
JPW Mini Monitor+Subwoofer	140	★★★★★ Nov 93	Frequencies blend marvellously to produce full bodied, punchy, seamless sound.	bo	87	8	70	No	3 units	Bk
JPW Millennium ML 510i	150	★★★★☆ Jun 00	Pleasant and listenable speakers with fine rhythmic ability but treble lacks detail.	st	89	6	70	Yes	33.22.20	2
JPW Millennium ML 710i	250	★★★★☆ Apr 00	Lively and entertaining performers that provide plenty of bass gusto.	fl	89	6	80	Yes	82.20.30	2
KEF Cresta 1	100	★★★★★ Apr 00	Superb speakers with excellent sound and as much a star product as their big brothers.	st	88	8	70	No	30.17.18	2
KEF Cresta 2	150	★★★★★ Jan 01	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Superbly musical and among the best at this price.	st	90	8	100	Yes	37.21.25	2
KEF Q15.2	200	★★★★☆ Oct 00	Almost make it into the top league but are let down by their treble performance.	sb	91	8	100	Yes	31.20.25	3
KEF Cresta 3	250	★★★★★ Apr 00	Refinement and rhythm are the key attributes of these impressive speakers.	fl	90	8	100	Yes	85.20.25	2
KEF Q35.2	350	★★★★★ Sep 00	Excellent detail and dynamics and awesome bass power, these are stunning speakers.	fl	91	8	100	Yes	74.20.25	3
KEF RDM One	500	★★★★☆ Apr 97	Confident and powerful monitors with dynamics to die for. More suited to smaller rooms.	st	87	6	125	Yes	30.23.22	3
KEF Q55.2	500	★★★★☆ Oct 00	Capable performers, but they don't quite manage to engage the senses as can the best.	fl	91	8	150	Yes	84.20.25	3
Klipsch SB1	199	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Interesting and enjoyable speaker but not quite good enough to be a finesse champ.	st	88	8	60	No	30.18.21	Bk
Linn Sekrit	395	★★★★★ Nov 96	Certainly versatile as multiroom or main speakers. Musically they offer a feast of detail.	wa	90	4	60	Yes	48.25.12	2
Linn Keosa	495	★★★☆☆ Mar 99	Can sound excellent given the right recordings but they are overly fussy.	fl	92	4	N/A	Yes	83.20.28	Bk
Magnat Vector Needle 11	129	★★★☆☆ Jan 01	Well-built, cute and certainly have sonic merits but there are better for the money.	st	89	6	50	No	22.13.15	3
Magnat Vintage 310	179	★★★★☆ Sep 00	For those who like their music up-front and uncompromising. Bass can be overpowering.	sb	91	6	90	Yes	35.25.31	3
Magnat Vector 22	199	★★☆☆☆ Sep 98	Hold no attraction for us - bass is loose and poorly controlled and treble is abrasive.	sb	90	4	120	Yes	38.22.30	Bk
Magnat Vintage 320	350	★★☆☆☆ May 01	If you want oodles of bass they'll satisfy, but look elsewhere for subtlety and finesse.	fl	91	6	160	Yes	100.25.31	3
Mission 70	100	★★★★☆ May 99	Good-natured, with lively sound, though some rivals offer a more realistic presentation.	st	89	8	50	No	26.16.16	2
Mission DM7	129	★★★★☆ Apr 01	Not short on quality and stands are included, but they won't worry the class leaders.	st	89	6	50	No	29.16.23	Bk
Mission 700	130	★★★★☆ Jun 00	Still fine speakers delivering plenty of punchy bass and having a real talent with vocals.	st	87	8	75	No	34.19.26	2
Mission m71	130	★★★★★ Jan 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Superb all-rounders - absolutely fantastic budget speakers.	st	88	8	75	Yes	30.17.28	2
Mission 701	160	★★★★★ May 98	An astounding level of sonic excitement crammed into a box sold for so little money.	st	89	8	100	No	45.22.30	2
Mission m72	170	★★★★☆ May 01	Big, bold and exciting sound - great if you limit yourself to rock and pop.	st	89	8	100	Yes	34.20.31	2
Mission 771e	200	★★★★★ Aug 00	Magical, sounding big and exciting as well as sweet enough to suit many systems.	st	87	8	100	Yes	31.17.23	3
Mission 702e	200	★★★★★ Apr 99	Outstanding product for the money and up there with the best budget floorstanders.	fl	89	8	100	Yes	85.22.30	2
Mission m73	200	★★★★★ Feb 01	Power, punch and subtlety, these Missions have got it all.	fl	90	8	100	Yes	85.20.31	2
Mission 772	250	★★★★☆ Jan 00	Will delight with their sheer musical dexterity, but they are not for lovers of bass.	st	87	8	100	Yes	42.17.27	3
Mission 780	300	★★★★★ Mar 00	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Stylish with a revealing and enjoyable sound.	st	87	8	150	Yes	28.17.27	3
Mission m74	300	★★★★★ May 01	Almost impossible to fault at this price - a near-perfect blend of scale and cohesion.	fl	91	8	150	Yes	95.20.33	2
Mission 773e	400	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Still good speakers but overtaken by talented newcomers.	fl	88	8	130	Yes	85.17.27	3
Mission fs2-A	450	★★★★★ Sep 00	Two NXT satellite speakers and a sub - sensational package that sounds and looks good.	wl	86	8	75	No	32.14.5	Ne
Mission 781	500	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Almost gain class-leading status, but lose out due to a lethargic low-end.	st	88	8	175	Yes	35.21.31	3
Mission 774	500	★★★★★ Sep 98	Excellent performers combining real clarity with taut, rhythmic and controlled bass.	fl	89	8	150	Yes	92.18.32	3
Monitor Audio Bronze 2	180	★★★★★ Jul 01	Great sound and construction, stunningly accomplished - one of the class leaders.	sb	90	6	100	Yes	35.19.37	2
Monitor Audio Bronze 3	270	★★★★☆ Dec 00	Detailed and enjoyable performer that almost makes the top grade, but the bass is soft.	fl	90	6	100	Yes	84.19.24	2
Monitor Audio Silver 5i	450	★★★★☆ Mar 01	Terrific clarity and insight but they only come to life at high volume levels.	fl	89	8	100	Yes	80.20.20	4
Monitor Audio Studio 2	500	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	May look good but their sonic performance is outclassed by most rivals at this price.	st	88	8	80	Yes	35.21.31	6
NAD 801 Mini Monitor	100	★★★☆☆ May 98	No longer leaders but remain an example of how to achieve hi-fi ideals for little money.	bo	88	8	75	No	27.17.18	BA
Opera Prima	495	★★★★☆ Sep 98	Beautifully made with a refined yet realistic sound that will satisfy for years.	st	87	6	75	No	33.19.30	2
Polk Audio RT25i	230	★★★☆☆ Nov 00	Wonderful detail and staggering bass but the harsh, insistent treble lets them down.	sb	89	8	100	No	28.17.24	3
Polk Audio M3-AW	249	★★★☆☆ Aug 99	All-weather speakers - can make music cut through a party throng, but lack refinement.	wl	89	8	100	No	28.16.21	Wt
Quadral Caerul QLX 115	180	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Entertaining on a short listen, but the Quadrals fall short when finesse is called for.	st	86	6	100	No	35.23.24	2
Quadral QLX 160	240	★★★☆☆ Mar 01	Impress with size and scale but the performance lacks cohesion and detail.	fl	87	4-8	80	No	80.23.24	2
Rega Ara	255	★★★★☆ Jan 00	Not for all types of music, but superb with classical, acoustic and jazz recordings.	st	N/A	8	75	No	32.17.20	3
Richard Allan Minette 2	139	★★★★☆ Apr 97	Now back at their original bargain price, offering plenty of bass and biwiring capability.	st	89	8	100	Yes	30.16.20	Gp

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SPEAKERS
STEREO PAIRS
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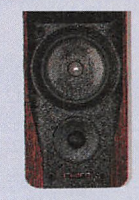
SPEAKERS (STEREO PAIRS) BEST BUYS



up to £300

1 **Mission 780** £300
2 **Wharfedale Diamond 8.1** £120
3 **B&W DM303** £180 4 **Mission m71** £130
5 **Monitor Audio Bronze 2** £180

£301-£600

1 **Dynaudio Audience 52** £557
2 **ATC SCM7** £480 3 **Epos M12** £549
4 **AVI Neutron III** £499
5 **KEF Q35.2** £350

£601-£1000

1 **B&W CDM1NT** £750
2 **ProAc Studio 125** £999
3 **Mission 782** £700
4 **ProAc Tablette 2000** £650
5 **Celestion A1** £900

over £1000

1 **KEF Reference One-Two** £1200
2 **Spendor SP2/3E** £1295
3 **Quad ESL988** £3400
4 **JBL Ti2K** £1600
5 **Harbeth HL-Compact 7ES** £1299

KEY: Type What kind? FL=FLOORSTANDERS, ST=STANDMOUNT, BO=BOOKSHELF, SB=STAND OR BOOKSHELF**Sensitivity** in decibels for one Watt (dB/W/m).The higher the number, the easier they are to drive. **Impedance** In ohms – the lower the number, the tougher the load the speakers present to an amp.

Power rating Maximum amp power suggested. A is Active.
Biwirable Can they be biwired (see *Glossary*)?
Height Width Depth Will they fit? In cms.
Finishes Number or BLACK ASH, CHERRY, GRAPHITE, GREEN, GREY, MAHOGANY, MAPLE, WHITE OR VARIOUS.
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £500 SPEAKERS

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS						
				TYPE	SENSITIVITY	IMPEDANCE	POWER RATING	BIWIRABLE	HEIGHT WIDTH DEPTH	FINISHES
Acoustic Energy Aegis Compact	110	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Compact in name and style, but a lack of dynamics means they can lack life.	st	88	6	100	No	26.15.14	Wt
Acoustic Energy Aegis One	150	★★★★☆ Jan 01	Best Buy in the Awards 1998. Fine-sounding, but a little outshone by the competition.	st	88.5	8	120	No	36.19.23	3
Acoustic Energy Aegis Two	250	★★★★★ Apr 00	Extremely enjoyable and informative speakers, and a must-listen at this price.	fl	88.5	8	120	No	84.24.19	3
Acoustic Energy Aego 2 (sub/sat)	300	★★★★★ Apr 01	Stereo sub/sat package for PCs and games consoles but fine in a hi-fi set-up too.	bo	-	-	A85	No	3 units	3
Acoustic Energy Aegis Three	350	★★★★☆ Oct 99	Will appeal with their upbeat and lively sound, but over-enthusiastic bass lets them down.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	88.19.22	3
Acoustic Research Status S10	140	★★★★☆ Jan 01	Well built, revealing and articulate but lack the dynamic ability of some competitors.	st	89	6	50	No	34.18.27	2
Acoustic Research AR15	275	★★★★☆ Feb 00	Smooth, revealing speakers that are very impressive in many respects but can lack oomph.	st	90	8	175	Yes	36.22.21	Bk
Acoustic Research Status S40	300	★★★★☆ May 01	Well-built impressive speakers capable of huge scale and acres of bass.	fl	91	6	150	Yes	99.20.34	2
Acoustic Research Status S50	400	★★★☆☆ Mar 01	Bags of bass and muscle for your money, but off the pace set by the best in this class.	fl	92	6	170	Yes	115.20.34	2
ALR/Jordan Entry S	180	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Good choice if space is tight, may lack some bass but they major on midrange clarity.	sb	87	8	50	No	22.13.18	2
ALR/Jordan Entry 3M	350	★★★★☆ Aug 99	Competent performers with excellent midrange clarity along with fine dynamic scale.	fl	89	6	80	No	80.21.30	2
Arcaydis Avanti 2	350	★★★☆☆ May 01	Deliver decent enough levels of detail but the highest and lowest frequencies are flawed.	fl	88	8	50	Yes	75.16.20	Va
ATC SCM7	480	★★★★★ Sep 01	Great achievement - boast a purity of tone unsurpassed at the price.	st	84	8	300	Yes	30.16.21	5
AVI Neutron III	499	★★★★★ Sep 01	Compact and accomplished all-rounders that rarely put a foot wrong.	sb	87	8	150	No	27.14.21	Ch
B&W DM303	180	★★★★★ Jul 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Formidable array of talents and no real weaknesses.	st	88	8	100	No	33.20.24	2
B&W DM305	350	★★★★☆ Mar 97	Offer solid performance and broad appeal, but the competition is strong at this price.	fl	91	8	120	Yes	84.22.31	2
Blue Room Minipods	289	★★★☆☆ Jun 00	Fun and stylish product, but for the serious audiophile they lack detail and dynamics.	sb	90	4	100	No	34.21.22	Va
Boston Acoustics CR75	199	★★★☆☆ Jun 01	Warm, big and smooth sound but others do much more for the money.	bo	89	8	100	No	32.19.24	Bk
Castle Pembroke	499	★★★★☆ Aug 00	Fine-looking and well-built but they lack that last ounce of magic.	fl	88	8	75	Yes	73.19.21	9
Celestion C1	200	★★★★☆ Awd 99	More competitive than the original C1s, but they lack the drama of the best at this price.	st	90	4	100	Yes	34.17.25	Gr
Celestion A Compact	399	★★★★★ Jul 98	Wonderfully appealing physically and sonically. Not the easiest load for amplifiers.	st	85	4	100	Yes	25.17.21	3
Celestion A1	449	★★★★★ Dec 99	A safe bet with an easy-going balance that works superbly on all types of music.	sb	88	4	100	Yes	41.24.34	3
Chario Ref 100	200	★★★☆☆ Aug 00	Quirky - capable of impressive bass, but it's not a sound that appeals to us.	st	88	8	80	No	32.18.27	2
Chario Syntar 100	249	★★★★☆ Jan 00	Classy Italian design with articulate, lucid sound, but they won't rock out like some.	st	88	8	80	No	32.18.27	2
Chario Hiper 1000	299	★★★★☆ Jul 99	Well worth a listen, and especially good with vocals and acoustic instruments.	st	87	4	100	Yes	35.18.29	2
Chario Syntar 100 T	399	★★★☆☆ Sep 97	As fussy about amps as they are about music. But they sound great with simple recordings.	fl	88	4	100	No	86.18.26	2
Cyrus CLS 50	500	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Fabulous in most areas, but are let down by their below-par bass performance.	st	86	8	100	Yes	25.18.27	Mp
Dali AXS 5000	269	★★★☆☆ Oct 98	Big boxes with a thumping sound at a very competitive price. Not the last word in finesse.	fl	90	6	120	No	90.24.33	Mh
Dali Royal Menuet II	429	★★★★☆ Oct 00	Refined and musical performers that work best in smaller rooms. Superb for their size.	sb	87	4	100	Yes	25.10.18	2
Dynaudio Audience 42	400	★★★★★ Mar 01	All-rounders that combine detail, punch and timing to produce excellent musical results.	st	86	4	150	No	28.17.25	3
Dynaudio Audience 40	400	★★★★★ Dec 98	Open, weighty and wide-ranging standmounters that sound much bigger than they look.	st	86	4	150	No	28.25.17	3
Elac CL 82 Mk II	399	★★★★☆ Mar 00	Interesting design well suited to dance or rock but they lack subtlety.	sb	90	4	200	No	33.20.29	Ad
Eltax Monitor III	130	★★★★★ Jun 00	Compact, cohesive-sounding and strong on rhythm - a great buy.	sb	89	6	90	Yes	30.19.23	2
Eltax Liberty 3+	149	★★★★☆ Jan 01	Not the most even-handed around, but they are still great sounding speakers.	sb	87	6	80	Yes	38.21.34	2
Eltax Liberty 5+	199	★★★★★ Mar 99	Expressive and exciting, these are excellent speakers for the money.	fl	87	6	100	Yes	84.20.34	2
Eltax Linear Response 6.5	349	★★★★★ Feb 98	Grand Danish speakers which are impressive in their scale and authority.	fl	87	6	100	Yes	87.27.34	Bc
Epos M12	429	★★★★★ Mar 01	Truly great product that gives a large slice of high-end sound at an affordable price.	st	88	8	75	Yes	38.20.25	Ch
Faraday Siren	445	★★★★★ Nov 90	Big, ugly concrete cabinets but a rich, smooth, crisp, clear sound with hard hitting bass.	st	90	4	80	Yes	46.27.25	Bk
Gale Silver Monitor	80	★★★☆☆ Jul 01	Good speakers that are at their best with rock, but watch out for peaky treble.	st	87	8	100	Yes	27.18.17	Bk
Gale Gold Monitor	90	★★★★☆ Nov 97	Sound safe rather than thrilling, but are enjoyable with a wide range of music.	st	88	6	70	No	27.18.17	2
Heybrook Point Five	130	★★★★★ Jan 01	Superb value for money, these Heybrooks are a genuinely musical pair of speakers.	st	89	6	70	Yes	30.17.20	2

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	DV4100 OSE	399
Myryad	MDV2000	999
Pioneer	DV340 & 343	200
Yamaha	DVD-S510	229
5 disc	DVD C996	499

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Arcam	Diva DT81	649
TAG	T32R DAB	2295
Videologic	DRX601-E	299
	601-ESE silver	350

TUNERS

Arcam	DiVA T51	279
Denon	TU260L Mk2	129
	TU1500RD	249
Marantz	ST4000 RDS	129
	ST6000 RDS	179
	ST 17	599
NAD	C420	179
TAG	T32R	1400
Yamaha	TX-396L	99
	TX-492 RDS	129

RECORDABLE CD

Denon	CDR1000	399
Marantz	DR 6000	399
	DR 4050 *twin*	349
	DR 6050 *twin*	399
Pioneer	PDRW839 *twin*	379
	PDR 609	279
Yamaha	CDR-D651 *twin*	449

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Arcam	MCD 7 cd	359
	DiVA CD72	399
	DiVA CD92	849
Denon	DCD485	139
	DCD685	179
100cd	DCM 5000	1499
Krell	KAV-280CD	3998
Marantz	CD4000	109
	CD5000	149
	CD6000 OSE-*LE*	299
	CD6000 KI	499
	CD17 Mk2	799
Mus Fidelity	A3	799
	Nu-Vista 3D	2995
Myryad	MC200	799
	MC600	1299
NAD	521	199
	541	349
Pioneer	PDF958 *101cd*	249
	PDF1009 *301cd*	299
Rotel	RCD951	375
	RCD971	475
TAG	CD20R	1249
Yamaha	CDX-496	179
5 disc	CDC-585	169

AMPLIFIERS

Arcam	DiVA A65+	349
	DiVA A75+	449
	DiVA A85	749
	P75+ Pwr Amp	299
	P85 Pwr Amp	499
Denon	PMA-255uk	139
	PMA-355uk	229
Krell	KAV-300 iI	3698
Marantz	PM-4200	159
	PM-6010 OSE	229
	PM-6010 KI	399
	PM-7000	299
	PM-17 II	999
Mus Fidelity	A3	849
	A3 pre/pwr	1998
Myryad	MI-120i	699
	MI-240	1499
	MA-120 pwr	499
NAD	C-300	149
	C-320 *now only*	219
	C-350	329
	C-370	449
Rotel	RA931 Mk II	189
	RA971 Mk II	275
TAG	60i	499
	60i RV	999
	PA10 pre	849
	60P pwr	849
Yamaha	AX-396	169
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Arcam	9000	99
Marantz	RC 5000 - II	329

MINIDISC RECORDER

Yamaha	MDX-596	199

TURNTABLES

NAD	533 + Elektra	219
Project	*Debut* + OMS5	*110
	Debut Colours	*125
	built in pre-amp	*140
	* *add £6.25 p&p for Debut*	
Project	.5 + OMS-10	169
	RPM + Ort 510	299

78 RPM

Dual	CS455/1	229
Project	78 rpm pulley kit	30
Ortofon	78 stylus	30

PHONO PRE-AMPS

NAD	PP1	39
Project	MM/MC	39
Rotel	RQ970BX	160

LOUDSPEAKERS

B&W	DM303	179
	601 mk3	249
	602 mk3	299
	602.5 mk3	399
	603 mk3	599
	CM2	550
	CM4	895
Celestion	A1 *now only*	499
Elac	Jet	799
	CL102 *mk2*	599
KEF	Cresta 2	149
	Coda 70 *new*	199
	Coda 90 *new*	379
	Q1	249
	Q3	399
	Q5	599
Mission	M71	129
	M72	169
	M73	199
	771e	199
	773e	399
	780	299
	781	499
	782	699
	783	999
Martin Logan	Aerius	2299
	Ascent	3999
Mon.Audio	Bronze 2	179
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	Silver 8i	699
	Gold Ref. 10	799
	Gold Ref. 20	1499
Proac	Tablette 2000	649
	Studio 125	999
	Response 1.5	1799
Revel	M20	1595
	F30	2895
Sonus Faber	Grand Piano	1699
Tannoy	MX-2	149
	MX-3 *Special >*	199

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	LCF60 mk3	199
	CMC	349
Elac	Cinema 1 pack with 5 aluminum sats + sub	399
KEF	Cresta Centre	99
	KHT 2005 eggs	799
Mission	Cinema 7 Package = 773e+77c1+77ds	799
Tannoy	MX Centre	99

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REL	Q 50	399
	Q 150 E	499
	Q 200 E	649
	Strata - 3	649
	Storm - 3	899
	Stadium - 3	1499
Yamaha	YST- SW105	149
	YST-SW205	199
	YST- SW320	349

SENNHEISER EVEN LOWER PRICES

HD 433	Open Back	18
HD 400	Models	21
HD 470		29
HD 490		43
HD 495	*Special Offer*	39.95
HD 500		57
HD 570		74
HD 580	*Special Offer*	79.95
HD 590		132
HD 200		42
HD 270	Closed Back	69
HD 25SP	Models	75
HD 265	*Special Offer >*	75
HD 250 Mk-2	(studio)	125

Electrostatic

IE60 / HEV70		895

Sennheiser FM Cordless

RS 30	*Special Offer >*	49
RS 45	*Special Offer >*	69
RS 60	*Special Offer >*	79
RS 80	*Special Offer >*	99
815s	Microphone	33

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Silver	5.00	8.50
MICRO	1.50	3.00
Profile 4x4	9.00	—
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Atlas Flat	2.50	5.00
Atlas Silver	5.00	9.00

Cabletalk

	Single	Bi-Wire
The Flat 1	2.00	4.00
Talk 3i	2.50	5.00

INTERCONNECTS + £3.00 p&p

per metre

Cabletalk*

Monitor 3 half m	40
1 m	50

*DIN or XLR plugs - no extra

QED QNECT

Qunex 1	1 metre	20
Qunex 2		30
Qunex 4		50
Qunex	D Digital / P75	25
Qunex	D Silver / SR-75	50
	OT Optical	30
	VS video silver	50
	SVS S-Video silver	60
QED	Squart	50

Transparent Audio

Link 200	70
Music Link	154
Digital Link	90

STANDS & TABLES

Send for brochures

Atacama - 3 colour options		
Nexus 5		70
Nexus 6		70
Nexus 7		80
Nexus 10		90
SE20	triangular col	80
SE24		80
Mission	Stancette	60
Sonus	Eclipse:	
	4 shelf	179
	5 shelf	199

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with curved front edge coloured glass shelves

XS100	4 leg 4 shelf	290
XS105	4 leg 5 shelf	320
XS310	long - TV	320
XS250	CD rack	285
XS180	DVD rack	285
SR310	3 long shelf	250

MINI SYSTEMS etc

Denon *Micro Receiver + CD player*		
	DM-30	229
	DM-50 incl 3xCD player	279
3 Box Slim Champagne system		
	D-F100	499
	DMD-F100 MD recorder	299
3 Box AV / DVD system		
	F100-AV	749
	NXT speaker pack + sub	499
Slimline on box DVD receiver		
	AVD 700	749
Linn Classik - CD receiver		999
*new*DVD player / receiver		1995
Marantz - *New 2 box silver lifestyle*		
	Eclipse 19 - incl. spkrs	599
NAD *2 box AV/DVD in gunmetal blue*		
	L75 5ch av receiver	499
	L55 DVD / CD Player	499
Myryad Cameo *3 box hi-fi amp - tuner - cd player*		1499
Teac *Micro Receiver + CD player*		
	Ref 100	229
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	H500-i 4 piece mini	799
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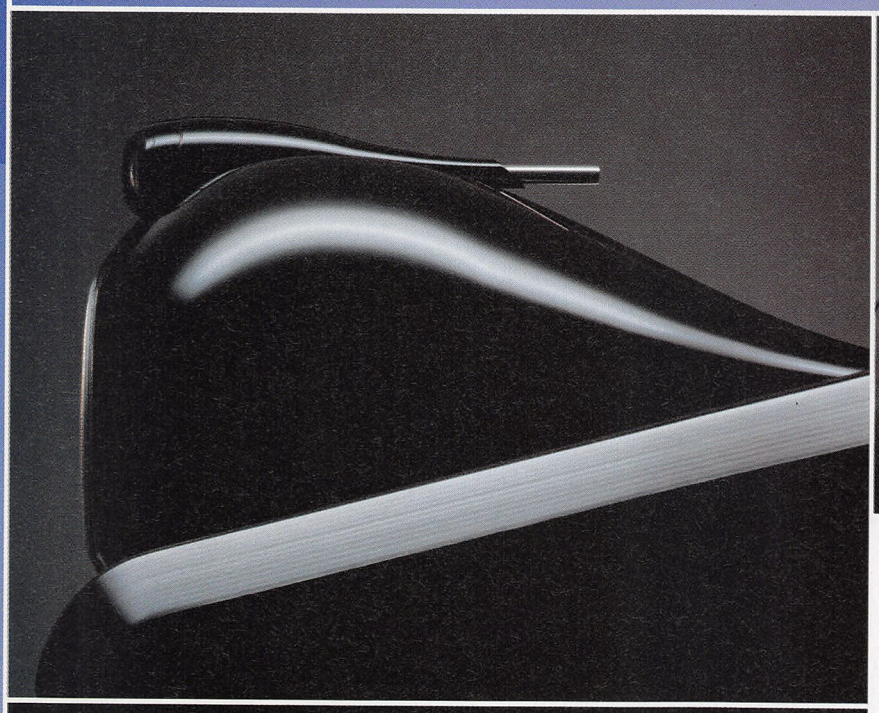
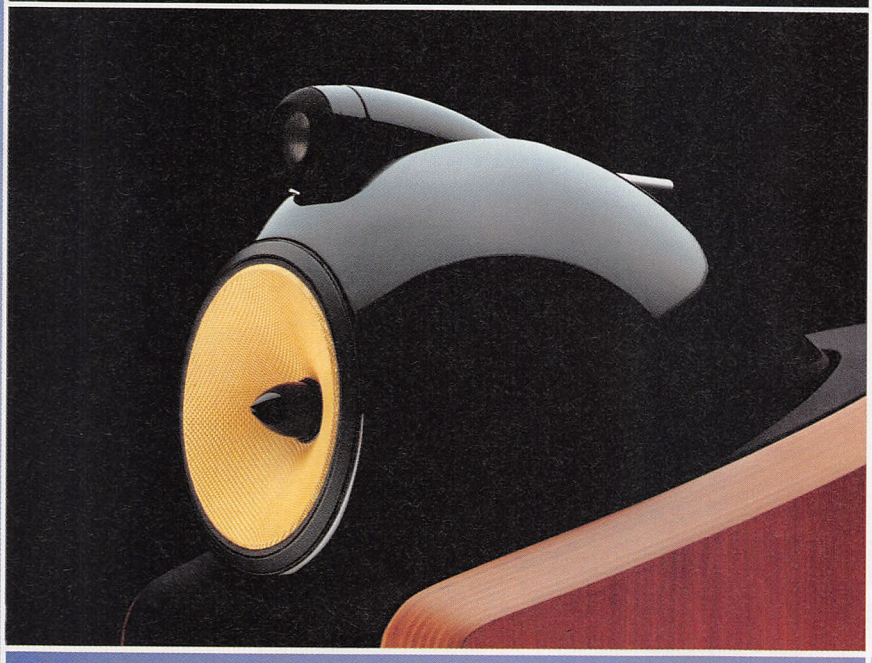




Performance through innovation

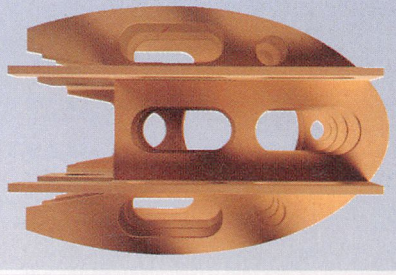
The radical Nautilus™ 800 series from B&W are designed to retrieve every last detail of the best recordings. They do so with the lowest distortion or colouration ever achieved by such designs. The range offers a variety of models and sizes from the awesome 801 – as used by Abbey Road Studios – to the compact 805, as well as a range of centre channel and surround speakers. These inspirational products are beautifully finished in a range of real wood veneer finishes.

Speakers from this fantastic range can be heard, and felt, at the following Mountain Snow dealers.

SOUNDCRAFT HI-FI
Ashford 01233 624441

HI-FI EXPERIENCE
London 0207580 3535

PHASE 3 HI-FI
Worthing 01903 245577



B&W

WWW.BWSPEAKERS.COM

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KEF

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Awards 2001 Product of the year

AV Speaker Packages
Kef KHT 2005

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Roger Pearl –
Mountain Snow Dealer

KHT 2005 AV SPEAKER | **£800.00**

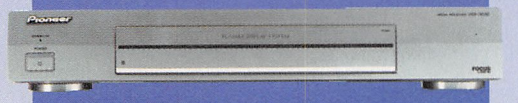
The AV speaker solution that's really making waves... and yes, they do sound as good as they look.

PIONEER

DV 444 DVD PLAYER | **£249.95**

Super slim – stunning looking – silver finish – if only all players looked this good! Also available in black.

PIONEER



PIONEER 503 50" PLASMA | **£9495.00**

The latest generation, breathtaking Pioneer plasma screen now comes with built-in tuner. Quite simply it's the must-have for any serious audio-visual enthusiast. £9495 including bracket and tuner. We've now made it easier to own a piece of Plasma magic for only £200* per month.

*Based on 30% deposit, payments over 36 months

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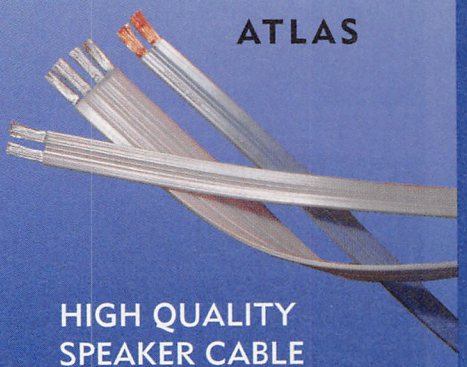
Processors from:
Yamaha, Meridian, Linn, Musical Fidelity and Tag McLaren

Speakers from:
B&W, B&W Nautilus, Castle, Celestion, Dynaudio, KEF, Infinity, Tannoy, Spendor and Mission.

ATLAS



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ATLAS 1 COPPER	**£2.50 per m**
ATLAS 1 COPPER BI-WIRE	**£5.00 per m**
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ATLAS 2 SILVER BI-WIRE	**£9.00 per m**

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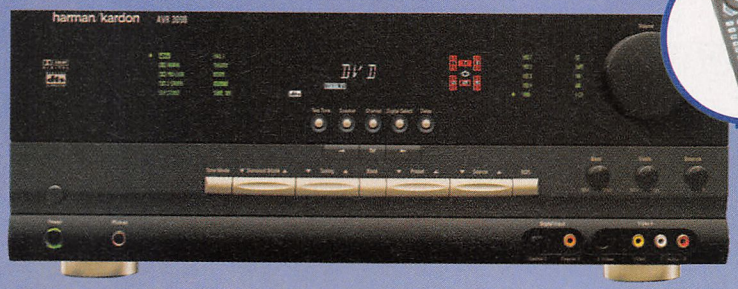
AUDIO VISUAL

HARMAN KARDON



Harman Kardon's EzSet™ Remote Control sets the surround receiver's output levels without repeated listening and without the use of an external sound pressure level meter.

Mountain Snow is delighted to announce the welcome return of Harman Kardon to the UK market

Harman Kardon, one of the world's premier suppliers of sound now brings the same exacting standards to home cinema. Infinity Alpha HCS speakers make the perfect partner. We hope you've got a comfortable armchair because we know you're going to be spending a lot more time in it! Buy this great combination together and get free delivery and set-up. Full range of complementary Harman Kardon equipment available.

INFINITY

AVR 3000
AV RECEIVER

INFINITY ALPHA
HCS SPEAKERS

PACKAGE PRICE
£899.00
(INCLUDING 30m OF FREE SPEAKER CABLE)

HARMAN KARDON

DVD 10
DVD PLAYER | **£299.95**

The Harman Kardon DVD 10 is a competitively priced DVD player with all the facilities you'll need – and excellent sound quality too!
- zone switchable
- now below £300!

DENON

AVR 3802
AV RECEIVER | **£849.00**

The reviews on this product simply couldn't be any better!
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"Quite sensational; without laying it on too thick, this is one of the best we've ever tested"
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YAMAHA

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Awards 2001 Product of the year
AV Amps/Receivers
Yamaha RX-V620RDS

DSP RXV 620
AV AMPLIFIER | **£449.00**

Award winning AV receiver with Dolby digital DBS.

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ARCAM

DiVA A65+ AMPLIFIER | £349.90

Back in black and silver, and sounding better than ever.

Now with improved output stage circuitry input coupling. This gives increased bandwidth and extended low frequency response, which makes the whole sound more open and dynamic. The soundstage is more three dimensional and the mid-range sounds more accurate.

PROJECT DEBUT	£109.95
NAD 533	£219.95
LINN SONNDEK LP12	up to £3000

Need something to play those old albums on? Bring them into one of our dealers and hear what they sound like on the best turntables around.

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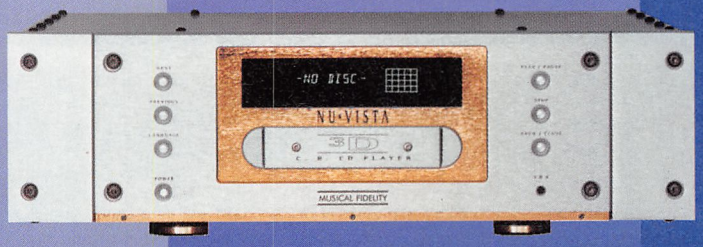

3D-CD CD PLAYER | £2995

The very last Nu-Vista valve product. **Easily the best CD player from Musical Fidelity** – ever! This limited edition player and the reviews are absolutely fantastic. There are only a few left... and you know the old saying, once they're gone...

ARCAM

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Awards 2001 Product of the year
CD Players
Arcam DiVA CD72

CD 72 CD PLAYER | £399.00

One of the great Hi-Fi bargains – The Arcam CD 72 now with CD text.
Available in Silver or Black

Not all products mentioned are available from all dealers.

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– Centre	Suttons Hi-Fi	01202 555512
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BRISTOL	Radfords Hi-Fi	01179 441010
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GLASGOW	Glasgow Audio	0141 332 4707
GUILDFORD	PJ Hi-Fi	01483 504801
HARROW	Harrow Audio	0870 800 4434
HULL	Fanthorpe Hi-Fi	01482 223096
LONDON	Hi-Fi Experience	020 7580 3535
POOLE	Movement Audio	01202 730865
SALISBURY	Salisbury Hi-Fi	01722 322169
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SOUTHAMPTON	Phase 3 Hi-Fi	023 8022 8434
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We are passionate about our customers and the products we sell them. Our reputations are unrivalled in the UK, as is our absolute commitment to the needs, wishes and aspirations of our customers.

We'd love for you to come and see, and hear, the difference for yourself today.

£801–£10000 Power amplifiers

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	TYPE	POWER	SPEAKERS	BRIDGEABLE	CONNECTION
Myryad MA240	1000	★★★★★ Aug 01	The powerhouse MP100/MA240 pair impresses with a broad spread of talents.		S	120	1	Yes	P/X
Myryad MA360	1300	★★★★★ Oct 00	Well-thought-out solution - we used with MA240 amp and MDP500 processor.		3	120x3	1	No	P
NAD S200	1400	★★★★☆ Apr 99	The combination of S100/S200 gives an easygoing sound that packs a hefty punch.		S	200	1	Yes	P/X
Naim NAP 180	1185	★★★★☆ Mar 00	If you hanker after a fast and feisty amp the NAC 92R/NAP180 combo is likely to appeal.		S	60	1	No	D
Naim NAP 250	1855	Au May 90	Partnered with NAC52 preamp it gives remarkable insight; drives the most difficult loads.		S	70	1	No	X
Parasound HCA-1205A THX	1700	★★★★☆ Aug 99	Though a great all-rounder it lacks the all-out drive and attack for big cinema effects.		5	140x5	2	No	P
Parasound HCA-2205A THX	2500	★★★★★ Nov 98	This is a movie-making behemoth, the godzilla of the amp world.		5	220x5	2	No	P
Primare A30.5	1699	★★★★☆ Oct 00	The A30.5 and P30 multichannel processor make a delightful pairing for music and movies.		5	120x5	3	No	P
Roksan Caspian (four-channel)	895	★★★★☆ Dec 99	Superb sound, Roksan has proved that a multichannel amp can deliver the musical goods.		4	80x4	4	No	P
Roksan ROK S1.5	1500	★★★★★ Nov 95	Use with the equally seductive ROK-L2.5 preamp for sound on a par with their looks.		S	70	1	No	P
Rotel RB-1090	1650	★★★★☆ Jul 00	Capable of going as loud as anyone could want, but it's not the most subtle-sounding.		S	380x2	2	No	P,X
Sony TA-N9000ES	999	★★★★★ Jun 99	Combine with the TA-E9000ES processor for absolutely bleedin' brilliant home cinema.		5	115x5	5	Yes	P
XTC POW-1	2500	★★★★★ Jul 98	Monstrous 25kg power amp - combine with the PRE-1 for plenty of control and serious slam.		4	200x4	4	No	P

Phono and Headphone amps Best Buys

up to £50

1 **Pro-ject Phono Box** £40
2 **NAD PP-1** £40

over £50

1 **Trichord Dino** £299
2 **Sonneteer Sedley** £399
3 **Linn Linto** £850
4 **Roksan Ataxerxes** £445

KEY: Type P = Phono amp; H = Headphone amp
Phono stage Comes in moving coil (C) or moving magnet (M) flavours, or is even switchable between the two
Loading for cartridges is either (S) switchable by user to suite various cartridge impedances or (F) factory set for just one, typically 47Kohms for moving magnet designs, 600hms for moving coil.
Equalization (R) the RIAA curve is the original standard but the later (I) IECC curve has the bass rolled off earlier
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £850

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS	TYPE	PHONO STAGE	LOADING	EQUALISATION
Creek OBH-11 headphone amp	129	★★★★☆ Sep 97	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1997. A lively and energetic headphone amplifier.		H	-	-	-
EarMax Pro Headphone Amp	425	★★★★★ Jun 99	Don't come much cuter than this valve-powered headphone amp and it's lust at first listen.		H	-	-	-
Linn Linto	850	★★★★☆ Sep 97	Vinyl fans will love this phono stage it will bring new life into old records.		P	M/C	S	R
Musical Fidelity X-CAN v2	149	★★★★★ May 00	Chunky, crisp, clear, open-sounding little headphone amp that is worth every penny.		H	-	-	-
NAD PP-1	40	★★★★☆ Jun 98	Any amp without a phono stage can benefit from this little phono preamp.		P	M	F	R
Naim Headline	216	★★★★☆ Jul 98	An expensive but worthwhile headphone amplifier. Ideal partner for Naim amplifiers.		H	-	-	-
Pro-ject Phono Box	40	★★★★★ Jan 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Brings out the best in sub-£300 turntables.		P	M	F	R
QED Discsaver	35	★★★☆☆ Jul 97	Good priced phono stage if you're stuck without a turntable input but it's not an upgrade.		P	M	F	R
Roksan Artaxerxes X	445	★★★★☆ Jun 99	Despite plain looks this phono stage presents music in an involving manner.		P	M/C	S	R
Roksan Caspian	650	★★★★☆ Awd 01	Fine phonostage that performs well on all counts, but has cheaper rivals to fight off.		P	M/C	S	R
Sonneteer Sedley	399	★★★★★ Jun 99	Sparkling treble, open midband and taut bass make this phono stage a real star.		P	M/C	S	R
Trichord Dino	299	★★★★★ Jun 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. A slice of high-end performance at a very competitive price.		P	M/C	S	R

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Loudspeakers
a symphony of sight and sound
harman/kardon AVR 4000
What Hi-Fi★★★★
The Internationally highly acclaimed receiver with the EzSet™ Technology
£499.00
WHAT VIDEO, TV BEST BUY DVD10
Multi-Region highly acclaimed DVD player
Was £389 Scoop Purchase Price
£299.00
harman/kardon

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Home Cinema P241-259
Accessories P260-267

MYRYAD REL ACOUSTIC ENERGY YAMAHA

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QUAD PIONEER IXOS QED TANNOY SOUND STYLE PRO-JECT

Christmas 2001

Castle Speakers SEVERN2SE (WALNUT) was £699.99 £399.99 **SAVE £300**

Sony AV Surround Receiver STRDB1070 was £599.99 £539.99 **SAVE £60**

Sony Multi Region DVD Player DVPNS300-MULTI was £249.99 £199.99 **SAVE £50**

Celestion AV Speaker Pack AVP305 £999.99

Buy as package and save a total of £350. £1499.97

Yamaha Home Cinema Separates Package HTIB20 was £399.99 £349.99 **SAVE £50**

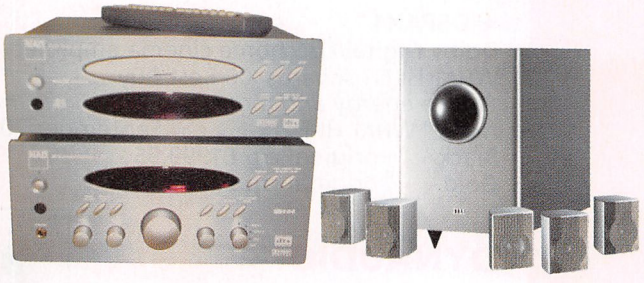
Yamaha Multi Region DVD Player DVDS510/520 £229.99

Buy both and save a total of £130. £499.98

Arcam CD Player CD72 £399.99

FREE Cabletalk Professional3 Interconnect (worth £74.99)

Rotel Amplifier RA931MKII was £189.99 then £149.99 £139.99 **SAVE £50**



NAD
Multi Region DVD Player & Dolby Digital Receiver L55-L75-MULTI
Elac
Home Cinema Speaker Pack CINEMA1-SILVER

Buy as package for £1399.98

+ Receive FREE: Sound Organisation rack & 2 pairs of Alphason speaker stands (worth £219.97)

Roksan

- Multi Region DVD Player CASPIAN DVD-MULTI
- 5 Channel Power Amplifier CASPIAN AV-AMP-5
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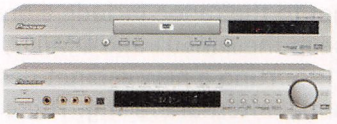
+ Receive Panasonic Widescreen TV TX32PL10C (worth £1199.99) FREE

Pioneer
Multi Region DVD Player DV444S-Multi
was £249.99
now £229.99
SAVE £20



AV Surround Receiver VSXC300S
only £299.99

Buy both as package with SV50-BLACK normally £259.99 save a total of £150 : £649.97

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SAVE £450

Marantz
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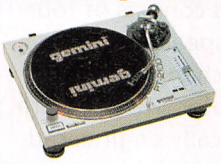

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Turntable PT2100
was £299.99
now £249.99
SAVE £50

Mission
Speakers 771(CHERRY)
was £199.99
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BREAKING NEWS

B&W

LISTEN AND YOU'LL SEE

B&W have compleltey rejuvinated the look of the 600 series, using Morton Warren - the designer of the Nautilus and CM series, to give them there stunning new look.

Changes to the range include a greater dynamic respose in the **DM601** and **DM602**, with the DM601 sporting a new cabinet design and substantial internal bracing. There is also a new **DM602.5**, a floorstanding model that sits between the DM602 and **DM603**. This has been designed with the attributes of the DM601 - but with added bass!

This new range is available from all **Audio T** *and* **Audio Excellence** *branches now.*

SPENDOR

After years in the wilderness Spendor are back with a cracking range of speakers. The **S-Series** consists of four stereo speakers plus a centre channel and subwoofer. They feature acoustically engineered grilles and rigid metal stabilisers on the base of the cabinets for solid coupling to the floor. Prices start at £599.90 for the stand mounted S3.

You can see and hear the range in CARDIFF, CHELTENHAM, SOUTHAMPTON *and* WEST HAMPSTEAD.

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SWINDON
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
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TDK
TEAC
TECHNICS
THORENS
VAN DEN HUL
WILSON BENESCH
YAMAHA

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★ **REFERENCE MODEL ONE-TWO** floorstanding loudspeakers *"These KEFs are deeply impressive. From build to sonic performance there's nothing to criticise"* WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ October 2001
original rrp from £1350 **OFFER FROM £1080**

★ **REFERENCE MODEL TWO-TWO** floorstanding loudspeakers
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Available from **Audio T** in SOUTHAMPTON, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, SWINDON and OXFORD

YAMAHA

★ **DSPAX1**
Dolby Digital/DTS home cinema amplifier
WHAT HI-FI? Awards '00 Best Buy
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Black original rrp £1999.95 **OFFER £999.95**
Gold original rrp £2099.95 **OFFER £1099.95**

DYNAUDIO

★ **AUDIENCE 40** Compact loudspeakers.
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Dec '98
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original rrp £399 **OFFER £299**

★ **AUDIENCE 60** floorstanding loudspeakers
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Feb '00
original rrp £729 **OFFER £549**

THIS IS JUST A SELECTION OF OUR SALE OFFERS

AT BASINGSTOKE

MAKE	MODEL/TYPE	CONDITION	NEW £	SALE £
LINN	Majik amp (inc. sneaky Kudos tuner)	S/Hand	1300	800
	LK 85 power amplifier	S/Hand	495	395
NAIM	Credo floorstanding loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	1285	885
	NAP140 power amplifier	S/Hand	815	515
	Nait 5 amplifier	S/Hand	800	700
	NAC 102 pre-amplifier	S/Hand	1175	1000
	NAP135 mono power amplifiers	S/Hand	3710	3110

AT BRENTWOOD

B&W	DM 603 S2 loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	549	399
	DM 602 S2 loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	299	209
BOSTON	DT9000 loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	1000	699
DENON	CDR1000 CD recorder	New	400	319
	AVR1800 home cinema amplifier	Ex-Dem	450	250
	DVD2500 DVD player	Ex-Dem	500	249
NAD	C340 amplifier	S/Hand		150
NAIM	NAC 92/NAP 90 pre/power amps	Ex-Dem	1000	700

AX BRISTOL

CASTLE	Avon floorstanding speaker (oak)	S/Hand		449
CHORD	CPA2200 pre-amplifier	Ex-Dem	2740	2299
	SPM600 power amplifier	Ex-Dem	2040	1699
CYRUS	Hark Base/Rack	S/Hand		359
LEXICON	DC-2 pre/processor	Ex-Dem	3800	2800
NAIM	CDS II CD player	Ex-Dem	4040	3499
ONKYO	TXDS989 home cinema receiver	Ex-Dem	2749	1749
YAMAHA	RX-V1000 home cinema receiver	Ex-Dem	800	599

AT CAMBERLEY

DENON	AVR 2800 home cinema amplifier	Ex-Dem	600	250
MERIDIAN	M33 active loudspeaker	Ex-Dem	1500	899
MISSION	754 Freedom floorstanding (oak)	S/Hand	1400	300
	75C centre (oak)	S/Hand	250	85
	M72 loudspeakers (beech)	Ex-Dem	170	110
ONKYO	TXDS474 home cinema amplifier	Ex-Dem	300	140
YAMAHA	RXV 596RDS home cinema receiver	New	430	299

AX CARDIFF

AUDIO RESEARCH	BL1 balanced convertor	S/Hand		350
B&W	Nautilus 801 loudspeakers	S/Hand		7000
CHORD	SPM4000 power amplifier	S/Hand		6000
DENON	CDR1000 CD recorder	Ex-Dem	400	350
	AVCA10SE home cinema amplifier	Ex-Dem	1300	1000
EPOS	ES11 speakers (black, inc. stands)	S/Hand		250
LINN	Karik 2 CD player	S/Hand		600
MARANTZ	PM6010Ki Signature amplifier	S/Hand		200

AT CHELTENHAM

ARCAM	Alpha 8 amplifier	S/Hand		199
	Alpha 8 power amplifier	S/Hand		150
CASTLE	Harlech floorstanding loudspeakers	S/Hand	1000	550
LINN	Keilidh floorstanding loudspeakers (rosenut, inc. plinths)			
		Ex-Dem	985	689
REGA	Ela floorstand speakers (rosewood)	S/Hand	535	349
	Planet 2000 CD player	S/Hand	500	380
TEAC	Reference 500 System	S/Hand	800	550

AX CHESTER

LINN	Kairn Pro pre-amplifier	Ex-Dem	1400	1050
	Wakonda pre-amplifier (phono)	Ex-Dem	945	750
	AV5103/AV5125 HC system	Ex-Dem	6250	4000
MERIDIAN	551 amplifier	S/Hand		650
METZ	Atlantis 32"widescreen TV (inc. stand)	Ex-Dem	2072	1499
NAIM	NAP140 power amplifier	S/Hand		449
QUAD	34/405.2 pre/power amplifier	S/Hand		449
YAMAHA	DSP A2 home cinema amplifier	S/Hand		449

AT ENFIELD

ARCAM	FMJ A22 amplifier	Ex-Dem	1000	679
	FMJ P25 power amplifier	Ex-Dem	750	499
CYRUS	XPA power amplifier	Ex-Dem	350	249
EPOS	ES14 loudspeakers	S/Hand		299
LINN	Wakonda pre-amplifier (phono)	Ex-Dem	900	695
MARANTZ	PM17 amplifier	Ex-Dem	900	700
MISSION	781 loudspeakers (rosewood)	New	500	349
ROTEL	RCD 951 CD player	Ex-Dem	375	175

AT EPSOM

CYRUS	Pre pre-amplifier	S/Hand	648	250
LEXICON	DC2 processor	S/Hand	4000	1795
LINN	Wakonda pre-amp (inc. sneaky tuner)	S/Hand	1340	995
	LK1/LK2 pre/power amplifier	S/Hand		275
MARANTZ	ST17 tuner	S/Hand	600	395
	506 CD player (24 bit)	New	1200	895
NAIM	CDX CD Player	Ex-Dem	2400	1950
	NAC 82 pre-amplifier	Ex-Dem	2435	1995

AX EXETER

AUDIOLAB	8000CDM/8000DAC CD transport/DAC			
		S/Hand		800
NAIM	NAP250 power amplifier	S/Hand		850
TAG McLAREN	PA10/60P pre/power amplifier	Ex-Dem	1700	999

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LOEWE
MARANTZ
MAXELL
MERIDIAN
METZ
MICHELL
MILLER & KREISELL
MISSION
MIT
NAD

AX GLOUCESTER

CASTLE	Inversion 15 speakers (inc. stands)	Ex-Dem	700	325
KEF	Cresta 3 loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	250	200
MARANTZ	PM6010 Ki Signature amplifier	Ex-Dem	400	230
	PM6010 OSE amplifier (Gold)	Ex-Dem	230	130
MISSION	771E loudspeakers (cherry)	Ex-Dem	200	170
ROTEL	RCD991 CD player	Ex-Dem	825	550
TANNOY	Mercury MX1 loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	119	75
TEAC	CRH130 CD receiver	Ex-Dem	250	189

AT HIGH WYCOMBE

ACOUSTIC ENERGY	Aegis centre loudspeaker	S/Hand	140	80
ARCAM	Delta 290 amplifier	S/Hand	550	250
CYRUS	3i amplifier	S/Hand	500	250
LINN	Keilidh floorstanding loudspeakers	S/Hand	800	275
WHARFDALE	NXT flat panel loudspeakers	New	299	179
YAMAHA	DSP AX2 home cinema amplifier	New	1300	899
	RXV800RDS home cinema receiver	Ex-Dem	599	479
	YST SW45 subwoofer	S/Hand	150	80

AT LONDON: WEST HAMPSTEAD

ARCAM	AVR 100 home cinema receiver	Ex-Dem	800	640
DAVIS	Cinema 1 projector	Ex-Dem	3995	2995
NAIM	Intor floorstanding speakers (cherry)	Ex-Dem	790	600
PROAC	Response 1 loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	1200	840
SONY	SCD XB940 CD player	New	550	395
YAMAHA	DSP AX1 home cinema amplifier	New	2000	1300

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AT OXFORD

ARCAM	Alpha 10 amp (inc. DAVE module)	Ex-Dem	1650	1099
KEF	Reference 2.2 flrstnd spkrs (r'wd)	Ex-Dem	1750	1399
LINN	Sara speakers (inc. stands and cable)	S/Hand		349
NAIM	Nait 3 amplifier	S/Hand	650	425
REGA	Cursa/Maia pre/power amplifier	S/Hand	950	599
	Maia power amplifier	S/Hand	475	299
TEAC	AVH500/DVH500 home cinema amp & DVD player			
		New	830	599
YAMAHA	DSP AX1 home cinema amp (Gold)	Ex-Dem	2100	1399

AT READING

ACOUSTIC PRECISION	FR1 MK2 loudspeakers	S/Hand	900	599
AUDIOLAB	8000A amplifier	S/Hand	499	275
AVI	Neutron 3 loudspeakers	S/Hand	499	400
CELESTION	MP1 loudspeakers	S/Hand	199	100
LINN	Kaber floorstanding loudspeakers	S/Hand	2000	799
	Kairn pre-amplifier	S/Hand	1700	900
NAIM	NAC 102 pre-amplifier	S/Hand	1175	900

AT SOUTHAMPTON

ARCAM	AVR100 home cinema amp (Black)	Ex-Dem	800	649
	Diva CD92 CD player (Silver)	Ex-Dem	850	750
	FMJ CD23 CD player	Ex-Dem	1100	1000
	Diva A75 amplifier (Silver or Black)	Ex-Dem	450	350
DAVIS	DLS8 projector (16x9, inc. TV tuner)	Ex-Dem	3995	2995
METZ	Atlantis television	Ex-Dem	1898	1398
ONKYO	DVC600 DVD Changer	Ex-Dem	700	450
PRO-JECT	Perspective turntable (inc. MC25FL cartridge and Michell ISO tonearm)			
		S/Hand		699

AX SWANSEA

ARCAM	AVR 100 home cinema receiver	Ex-Dem	800	549
	Diva DV88 DVD player	Ex-Dem	1000	799
DEFINITIVE TECHNOLOGY	BPX2 surround loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	595	425
	Pro home cinema speaker package	Ex-Dem	998	699
DENON	AVC A10SE home cinema amplifier	Ex-Dem	1300	949
NAIM	NAC72 pre-amplifier	S/Hand		450
	NAP140 power amplifier	S/Hand		450
	CDX CD player	Ex-Dem	2400	1999

AT SWINDON

ARCAM	Alpha 9 amplifier	S/Hand	500	350
KEF	Q55.2 floorstand speakers (cherry)	Ex-Dem	500	400
	Q85.2 loudspeakers (grey)	Ex-Dem	180	140
	Q95C.2 centre loudspeaker	Ex-Dem	200	150
MERIDIAN	501/556 pre/power amplifier	Ex-Dem	1690	1350
NAIM	NAC92/NAP90 pre/power amp	Ex-Dem	1001	700
PIONEER	DV717 DVD player (Gold)	Ex-Dem	600	300
PRO-AC	Response 1'S speakers (cherry)	S/Hand	999	599

AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS

LINN	Kairn pre-amplifier	S/Hand	1400	795
	Sara loudspeakers	S/Hand	900	250
MARANTZ	CD63SE CD player	S/Hand	350	99
NAIM	CD2 CD player	S/Hand	2000	1200
	NAP 140 power amplifier	S/Hand	840	450
YAMAHA	DSP A1 home cinema amplifier	S/Hand	1600	600

AX WORCESTER

ELAC	CL102 MK2 loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	599	479
	CL82 MK2 loudspeakers	Ex-Dem	399	299
	Jet 310i loudspeakers (silver)	Ex-Dem	799	639
NAD	S400 Silverline tuner	S/Hand		350
ROTEL	RCD971 CD player	Ex-Dem	475	350
YAMAHA	RXV 1000 home cinema receiver	Ex-Dem	800	650
	RXV 800 home cinema receiver	Ex-Dem	650	550
	YST SW90 subwoofer	Ex-Dem	180	120

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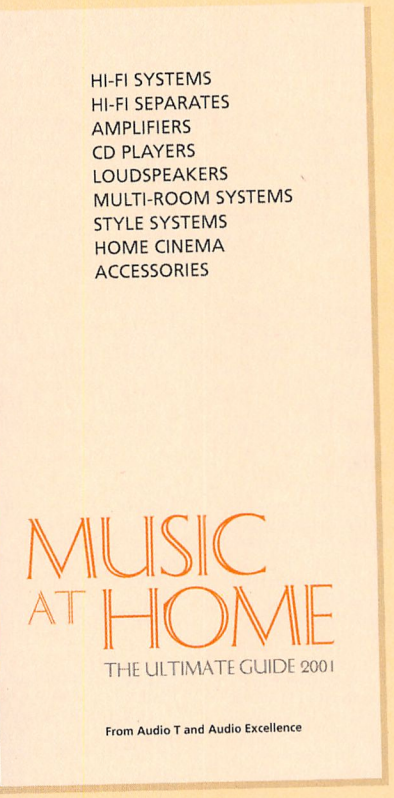

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All branches closed on Sundays and Mondays

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Started in 1966 and 1981 respectively, Audio T & Audio Excellence are two of the oldest and most respected hi-fi retailers in the world.

THREE YEAR GUARANTEES

We offer a free 3 year guarantee on all new hi-fi separates and most systems, the first 2 years of which are transferable to another BADA dealer should you move. Everything else carries a one year guarantee unless the manufacturer offers longer.

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All our shops have comfortable demonstration rooms for Hi-Fi and Home Cinema.

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We allow you to change goods you have bought within 10 days (for something of equal or greater value) if you are not satisfied, provided that they are in perfect condition and returned complete with all packing and instructions. We allow you to upgrade to something better for up to 30 days, again at no cost penalty and subject to the rules above.

PART EXCHANGE

We can usually take your old, working, equipment off your hands. You may be surprised at the deal we can offer.

MAIL ORDER

We are happy to mail order many products that we sell, only excluding Arcam, Acoustic Energy, B&W, KEF, Marantz, NAD and those that require special installation and setting up. Carriage is free.

BADA

BADA the symbol of security

We are members of the British Audio Dealers Association, committed to high standards of demonstration, advice and service. We offer its Transferable Guarantee which allows you to transfer your guarantee rights to another BADA member if you move over 30 miles.

CUSTOMER DRIVEN

We are in business to give you what you want. We can arrange for home loans of equipment (subject to status) and home dems (subject to distance). We can make up leads for you and we can also provide insurance quotes, system tests and re-installation services if you move.

CEDIA & CUSTOM INSTALLATION

CEDIA®

These days many customers want their Hi-Fi and Home Cinema equipment integrated into their homes. As members of CEDIA we carry out the complete installation, from pre-wiring the room (or home) to fine tuning the last component.

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Some branches open late on Wednesday/Thursday and all offer evening demonstrations by appointment.

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(Subject to status. Written details on request.)

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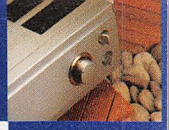

POWER AMPLIFIERS BEST BUYS

up to £800

1 **Cyrus Smartpower** £500
2 **Linn LK85** £475 (right)
3 **NAD C270** £450
4 **Roksan Caspian** £595
5 **TAG McLaren Audio 60P** £600

over £800

1 **Musical Fidelity A3CR** £999
2 **Cyrus Mono aPA7** £950
3 **Krell FPB300C** £9998
4 **Meridian 557** £1525
5 **Myryad MA240** £1000

KEY: Type M = MONO, S = STEREO
Power The maximum output per channel, quoted in Watts. More power doesn't make a better amp, but it can help!
Speakers How many pairs can it drive?
Bridgeable Some stereo power amplifiers can be converted into more powerful mono amps, to which you can add a second 'bridged' amp for a more powerful performance. Typically the power increase is around 3x, so a 60W per channel stereo amplifier becomes a 180W mono model. Only amps specifically designed for bridging can be used like this – check with a dealer if in doubt
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £800

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	TYPE	POWER	SPEAKERS	BRIDGEABLE	CONNECTIONS
Arcam DIVA P85	500	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Combine with the A85 integrated for a very superior amplifier indeed.	S	85	2	No	P
Arcam FMJ P25	750	★★★★★	Awd 00	The terrific combination of P25 and FMJ A22 Dave, handles music and movies very well indeed.	S	100	2	No	P
Audio Note P-Zero	699	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Pair the P-Zero with the M-Zero preamp for a generous helping of valve magic.	M	8	1	No	P
Creek A43 Mk2 x 2	350	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Look past the physical aspects of the P43R/A43 combo, it's an excellent buy.	S	50	1	Yes	P
Creek A52SE	599	★★★★☆	Oct 99	The P43R/A52SE may be quirky but what's going on inside more than compensates.	S	80	2	Yes	P
Cyrus XPA	350	★★★★★	Feb 98	Tested with the straight line, this is a superbly cost-effective power amp.	S	50	1	No	P
Cyrus SmartPower	550	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001 combined with the Pre aCA 7.5 and the PSX-R.	S	60	1	Yes	P
Linn LK85	475	★★★★★	Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. The lK85/Kolektor combo plays music superbly.	S	85	1	No	P
Linn LK240	750	★★★★☆	Jul 97	The combination of Wakonda and LK240s is fabulously flexible and superbly musical.	S	125	1	No	P
Linn LK140	750	★★★★☆	Mar 00	There's much to like about the Wakonda/IK140, but it isn't the most transparent around.	S	95	1	No	P
Magnum MF120	445	★★★★★	Aug 96	Highly revealing with MP120 preamp - delivers attention-grabbing and rewarding sound.	S	85	1	No	P
Marantz SM-17	700	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Adding the SM-17 to the PM-17MkII KI amp brings subtle but worthwhile gains.	S	60	2	Yes	P
Moth 30 Series Power	275	★★★☆☆	Sep 92	Monobloc of skinny proportions but capable of open, informative sound at all frequencies.	M	30	1	No	P
Musical Fidelity X-AS100	800	★★★★★	Jan 99	Unburstable power amp; when combined with the X-P100 preamp gives stunning sound.	S	100	1	No	P
Myryad MA120	500	★★★★☆	Oct 99	British, stylish and with a crowd-pleasing sound, the combo of MA120/MP100 is well-judged.	S	60	1	No	P
NAD 214	370	★★★☆☆	Nov 98	The pairing of 116/214 pre/power makes a fast, dynamic amp but it is not lifelike.	S	80	1	Yes	P
NAD C270	450	★★★★★	Nov 01	Adding the C270 to the superb C370 amp gives more punch and greater focus.	S	120	2	Yes	P
Naim NAP 150	750	★★★★★	Aug 01	Thoroughly entertaining pre/power combo (NAC 112/NAP 150) and it's upgradable.	S	50	1	No	D
Parasound HCA-750A	450	★★★★☆	Oct 99	The combination of P/HP-850/HCA-750 pre/power gives a powerful but relaxed sound.	S	75	1	Yes	P
Quad 99 Stereo	550	★★★★★	Jul 00	One for the listener who likes a cultured sound - we like the 99 pre/power combo a lot.	S	85	1	No	P
Roksan Caspian	595	★★★★★	Dec 98	Good, no-nonsense amp that will be as happy to be used outside a Roksan system as in.	S	70	2	No	P
Rotel RB1080	500	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Competent combination of RB1070 and RB1080 but lacks all-round ability.	S	200	1	Yes	X
Sound Tech PL200	169	★★★☆☆	Aug 97	Aimed at the pub/club market and available mail order - amplification on the cheap.	S	100	1	Yes	X
TAG McLaren Audio 60P	600	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Use the 60P with the 60i integrated for even bigger, more open, involving sound.	S	60	1	No	P
Technics SE-A1010	350	★★★☆☆	Oct 99	Plenty of power on tap, but it lacks punch. Future-proofed when combined with the SU-C1010	S	70	1	No	P

£801–£10000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	TYPE	POWER	SPEAKERS	BRIDGEABLE	CONNECTIONS
Audio Note P4 Monobloc x 2	4250	★★★★☆	May 01	The M2 and the P4 power amp combinations is capable of breathtaking sonic feats.	M	18	1	No	P
Audion Silver Night Anniversary	3250	★★★★★	Sep 97	Mono valve amps that produce breathtaking clarity - partner with sensitive speakers.	M	25	1	No	P
AVI S2000MM	1399	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Big money but use these amps with the S2000MP preamp for a big stonky sound.	S	150	1	No	P
Cary Audio Design CAD-805C	8995	★★★★★	Sep 99	Amazing power amp with an awe-inspiring ability to fill a room with musicians.	M	50	1	No	P/X
Chord Electronics SPM 600	2040	★★★★★	Jul 99	Used with the CPA 2200 preamp, the Chords are very hard to beat - excel in detail retrieval.	S	130	2	No	P/X
Chord Electronics SPM 1200E	5060	★★★★★	May 01	The CPA 4000 preamp and this 1200E belong right at the forefront of high-end amplification.	S	350	2	No	P/X
Crimson CS-630D	850	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Idiosyncratic combo of CS610C/CS630D, but it's sure to please.	M	100	1	No	P
Cyrus Mono aPA7	950	★★★★★	Jan 99	Two PA7s with the CA7 preamp and PSX-R power supply make a package that is hard to beat.	M	150	1	No	P/X
DNM PA3	1900	★★★★★	May 01	Superlative resolution, dynamics and timing. Tested with the Reson 3C Primus preamp.	S	50	1	No	D
DNM PA3S	2900	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Used with the DNM 3C six, merits a serious audition but cosmetics don't impress.	S	23	1	No	D
EAR 861	3600	★★★★★	Awd 01	Gutsy but involving valve-amp; used with 864 preamp, it's something special.	S	32	1	Yes	P, X
GRAAF GM 20	3200	★★★★★	Jan 00	Partner with 13. 5BII preamp for a truly magical valve combination. Brings music to life.	S	25	1	Yes	P/X
Krell FPB300C	9998	★★★★★	Jan 00	Blend of strengths make the combo of KRC-3 preamp with the 300C, a superb performer.	S	300	1	No	P/X
Mark Levinson No334	5495	★★★★★	Jan 00	Fabulous build and powerful yet subtle performance. Tested with the No380s preamp.	S	125	1	No	P/X
Meridian 505	845	★★★★☆	Jul 97	Clean and massively powerful take a long listen and hear what it does for you.	M	160	1	No	P/X
Meridian 557	1525	★★★★★	Mar 99	An excellent power amp that manages to combine high power with sonic subtlety.	S	200	1	Yes	P/X
Meridian 558	3395	★★★★★	Oct 00	Glimpse the future with the Meridian 568 processor, 562V.2 controller and 558 amp.	5	200x5	3	Yes	P/X
Moon W-3	3450	★★★★☆	Awd 01	Beautifully built, the P-3/W-3 combination puts listenability before attack.	S	120	1	Yes	P/X
Musical Fidelity A3CR	999	★★★★★	Jul 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. The A3CR combo is an exciting listen without fatigue or stress.	S	120	1	No	P

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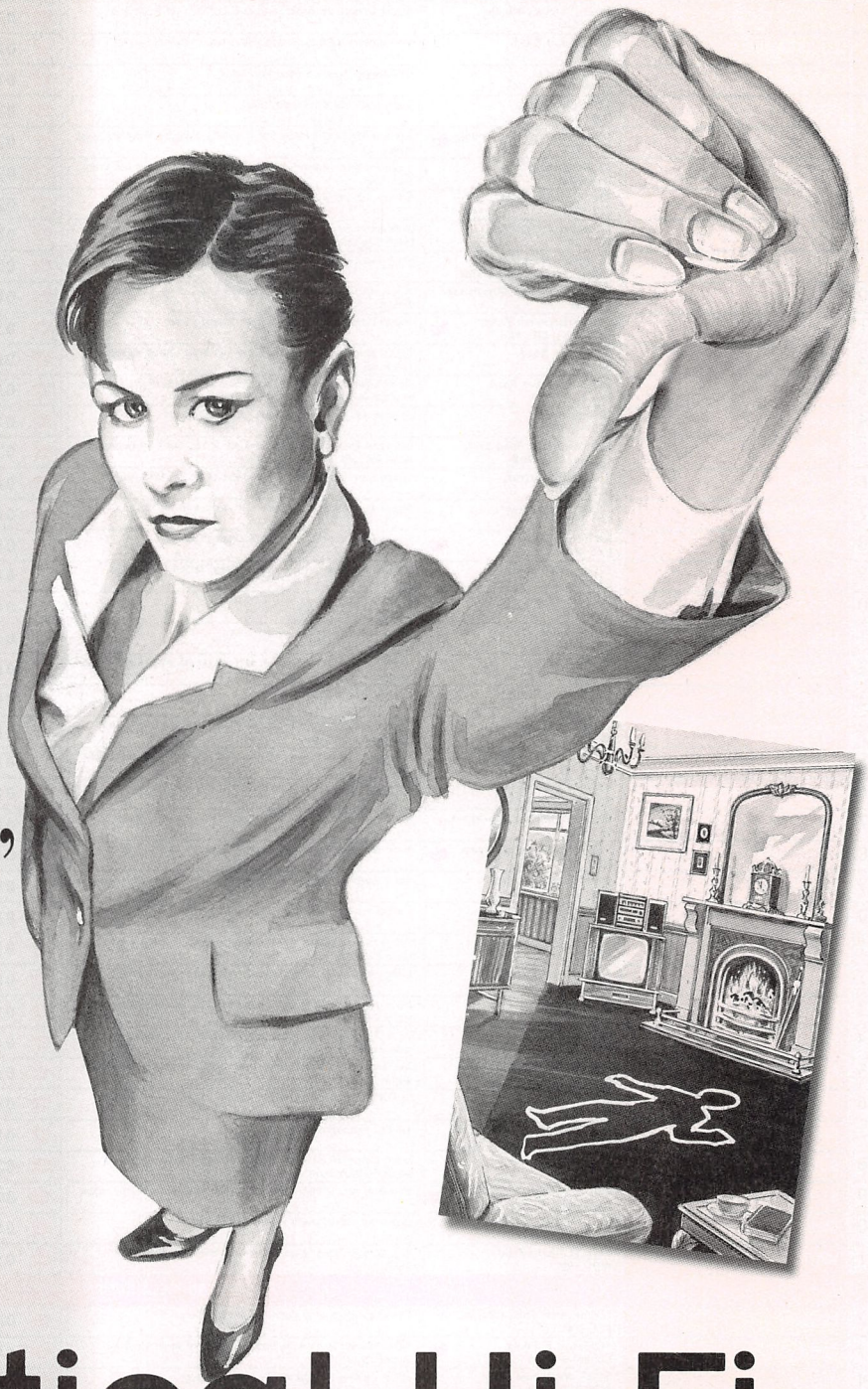

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STORE No.	BRANCH LOCATION	BRANCH ADDRESS	DIRECTIONS	TELEPHONE NO.	Manager's/Deputy Manager's name	OPENING TIMES	0	D	*	P
1	LONDON BROMLEY	48 East Street, Bromley, BR1 1QW	Opposite Bromley North Station. On corner of East Street and Tweedy Road.	020 8466 6565	Manager: Richard Deputy Manager: Daniel	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (CLOSED WEDS)	1			
2	LONDON CHELSEA	258 Fulham Road, SW10 9EL	Opposite Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. 15 minute walk from Earl's Court Tube.	020 7352 8496	Manager: Russell Deputy Manager: David	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1		*	
3	LONDON CITY	1a New Street, EC2M 4TP	Off Bishopsgate, opposite Liverpool Street Station.	020 7626 8006	Manager: Steve Deputy Manager: Marlon	12-7PM MON-FRI CLOSED SATS				
4	LONDON CROYDON	42 London Road, CR0 2TA	2 minute walk from West Croydon Station.	020 8667 1100	Manager: Mike Deputy Manager: Neil	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1	1	*	
5	LONDON EALING	105 Broadway, West Ealing, W13 9BE NEW	Turn in to West Ealing Broadway. Shop is located 1 minute past Woolworths on the opposite side of the road.	020 8566 4422	Manager: Val Deputy Manager: Paul	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1			
6	LONDON WEST END	29 Bloomsbury Way, WC1A 2SL	5 minute walk from Holborn Tube, Tottenham Court Road & 10 mins from Oxford Circus Tube.	020 7831 2888	Manager: Phil Deputy Manager: Doug	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)				
7	LONDON KINGSTON	72a Richmond Road, KT2 5EL	5 minute walk from Kingston Station.	020 8549 9999	Manager: Suki Deputy Manager: Michael	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1	1		P
8	LONDON BRIDGE	2 London Bridge Walk, SE1 2SX	On the walkway (not in A-Z) over Duke Street Hill (not on street level) 2 mins walk from London Bridge Station/Tube.	020 7403 1201	Manager: Clive Deputy Manager: Max	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1			
9	LONDON SWISS COTTAGE	25 Northways Parade, College Crescent, NW3 5DN	Bottom of Fitzjohns Av. 2 mins from Swiss Cottage Tube.	020 7722 3359	Manager: Jim Deputy Manager: Johnny	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (CLOSED WEDS) 12-4PM SUN	1		*	
10	BIRMINGHAM	10-12 Smallbrook Queensway, B5 4EN	In front of the Forte Crest Hotel on main Ring Road 5 minute walk from Birmingham New Street Station.	0121 643 1516	Manager: Tim Deputy Manager: Garry	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1	1	*	
11	BOURNEMOUTH	543 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, BH1 4AH NEW	Opposite Deacon's pub, near McDonalds and shopping precinct.	01202 720 380	Manager: Paul Deputy Manager: Sam	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) (CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1			
12	BRIGHTON	54 London Road, BN1 4JE	Opposite 'Blockbuster Video'. 15 minute walk from Brighton Station. Multi-storey car park at rear.	01273 673 333	Manager: Ian Deputy Manager: Jessie-Mae	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1	1	*	
13	BRISTOL	143 Whiteladies Road, BS8 2QB	(The old Unipart store) Now relocated, just 300 yards away from the old shop. 5 mins walk from Clifton Down Station.	0117 973 4397	Manager: Gary Deputy Manager: Martin	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1		*	
14	CAMBRIDGE	25 Hills Road, CB2 1NW	10 minute walk from station, next door but one to Globe pub.	01223 304 848	Manager: David Deputy Manager: Gary	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS	1			
15	CARDIFF	106 Cowbridge Road East, Canton, CF11 9DX	Cross Canton Bridge. Travel a quarter of a mile to Saint David's Hospital. Store is located 500 yards on the right hand side.	0292 039 9988	Manager: Andy Deputy Manager: Dave	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1			
16	CHELTENHAM	31 The High Street, GL50 1DY	Opposite Gates of Sanford Park, 5 minutes walk up the High Street from HMV.	01242 572 572	Manager: Steve Deputy Manager: Jason	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS	1			
17	EDINBURGH	1b Chambers Street, EH1 1HR	Opposite Royal Scottish Museum, 10 minutes walk from Waverly Station.	0131 226 3544	Manager: Brian Deputy Manager: Mike	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1			
18	EXETER	89 Sidwell Street, EX4 6PH NEW	Walk up Sidwell Street, 20 yards past the cinema on the left.	01392 272 772	Manager: Paul Deputy Manager: Ben	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS.	1			
19	GLASGOW	57 Jamaica Street, G1 4NN	100 yards from Boots corner, 5 minutes walk from Glasgow Central Station.	0141 226 5551	Manager: Gavin Deputy Manager: Cammy	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1		*	
20	GUILDFORD	8 London Road, GU1 2AF	Top of the High St, opposite the Civic Centre.	01483 449 222	Manager: Loic Deputy Manager: Paul	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1			
21	HULL	55 Ferensway, HU2 8NA NEW	Next to Debenhams, opposite Hull train station.	01482 329 289	Manager: Gavin Deputy Manager: Phil	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS.	1			
22	LEEDS	55 The Headrow, LS1 6LR	1/2 mile from Leeds City Station, turn left out of main exit, walk straight along Park Road, turn right into The Headrow.	0113 245 5717	Manager: John Deputy Manager: Andy	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1		*	
23	LEICESTER	163 London Road, LE2 1EG	2 minute walk from Leicester train station.	0116 255 4656	Manager: Harry Deputy Manager: Kev	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1	1		
24	LIVERPOOL	1-5 Berry Street, L1 9DF	On the corner at the top of Bold Street, 10 minute walk from Liverpool Lime Street Station.	0151 708 7484	Manager: Alan Deputy Manager: Paul	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS. (7PM THURS)	2	1	*	
25	MAIDSTONE	21-23 Earl Street, Kent, ME14 1PL NEW	Turn right out of station, down week Street, turn right at Marks & Spencer, 100m down on the left.	01622 67 70 67	Manager: Sean Deputy Manager: Ian	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS.	1			
26	MANCHESTER NORTH	415-419 Bury New Road, Prestwich, M25 1AA	400 yards from Junction 17 of the M62. 2 mins walk from Prestwich Station.	0161 773 0333	Manager: Anthony Deputy Manager: Kevin	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1	1	*	P
27	MANCHESTER SOUTH	58 Lower Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3AL	Just 200 yards from our old location. 5 mins walk from Stockport station.	0161 480 1700	Manager: Lawrence Deputy Manager: John	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1	1	*	
28	MILTON KEYNES	556 Elder House, Eldergate, MK9 1LR NEW	At the train station itself, between Jaipur Restaurant and the bus station	01908 608 908	Manager: Danny Deputy Manager: Chris	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS	1			
29	NEWCASTLE	94-96 Clayton Street, NE1 5PG	Next to Burger King. 2 mins walk from Newcastle Central Station and old premises.	0191 230 1392	Manager: Ian Deputy Manager: Simon	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1	1	*	
30	NORWICH	113-119 Ber Street, NR1 3EY	2 minute walk from Bonds, opposite Lind BMW Car Park.	01603 620 860	Manager: Piers Deputy Manager: Ross	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS	1			
31	NOTTINGHAM	108 Mansfield Road, NG1 3HD	Close to the Victoria Centre, opposite 'Golden Fleece' pub. 10 minute walk from Victoria Bus Station.	0115 924 1551	Manager: Dominic Deputy Manager: Stuart	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1			
32	OXFORD	12 Park End Street, OX1 1HH	3 minutes walk from train station, in between Botley Road bus island and Worcester St car park.	01865 243 444	Manager: James Deputy Manager: Jamie	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS	1			
33	PLYMOUTH	87-89 Exeter Street, PL4 0AH	500 metres from Charles Church, 15 minute walk from Plymouth station, on main road into town from Exeter.	01752 222 256	Manager: Richie Deputy Manager: Craig	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (CLOSED WEDS)	2	1		P
34	READING	114 Oxford Road, RG1 7NE	Jctn. 11 off M4. Follow A33 Left at dual carriageway. 2nd exit. Left at roundabout, left at mini-roundabout, left at T-junction, we're 50 yds on left.	0118 959 1111	Manager: Matt Deputy Manager: Lawson	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1			P
35	ROMFORD	73 Main Road, Gidea Park, Essex, RM2 5EP	Take Romford exit at Gallows Corner at end of A12. Store is 3/4 mile up opposite Balgores lane.	01708 747 727	Manager: Lee Deputy Manager: Ian	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1	1	*	P
36	SEVENOAKS	London Road, TN13 2JD	On A224 main road into Sevenoaks on left hand side, opposite railway station.	01732 456 573	Manager: Paul Deputy Manager: Darren	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS (CLOSED WEDS)	1		*	
37	SHEFFIELD	130 Whitham Rd, Broomhill, S10 2SN	400 yards from Weston Park Hospital.	0114 266 1616	Manager: Lindon Deputy Manager: Stuart	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1		*	P
38	SOUTHAMPTON	77 London Road, SO15 2AA	Formerly Natwest Bank, on the corner of Carlton Crescent. 10 minute walk from Southampton Central Station.	0238 023 1311	Manager: Pete Deputy Manager: Michael	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1	1	*	
39	STOKE ON TRENT (HANLEY)	Unit 4, The Quadrant, Town Road, Hanley, ST1 2QD NEW	Off potteries way ring road, 2 mins walk from the Potteries variable stay car park.	01782 289 009	Manager: James Deputy Manager: Mike	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS	1	1		
40	SWINDON	177 Manchester Road, SN1 1TU	Opposite bus station, 1 minute walk from the train station.	01793 612 652	Manager: Neil Deputy Manager: Phil	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS) (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS	1		*	
41	WATFORD	117c St.Albans Road, WD1 1RD	Near junction of Station Rd and St.Albans Rd 5 minute walk from Watford Junction Station.	01923 218 888	Manager: Heather Deputy Manager: Colin	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS	1		*	P
	NORTHERN IRELAND/EIRE									
42	BELFAST	7 Smithfield Square North, BT1 1DD	At the rear entrance of the Castle Court shopping centre.	028 9032 1332	Manager: Alan Deputy Manager: Jayson	10-5.30PM (7PM THURS) MON-SAT	1			
43	CORK	1-2 Tower Building, Glanmire Road NEW	Opposite Glanmire Church at the bottom of Summer Hill, on the left as you approach the train station.	+353 (0)21 450 4004	Manager: Jack Deputy Manager: David	9.30-5.30PM 9.30-7PM SATS MON-SAT				
44	DUBLIN	34-35 Wellington Quay, DUBLIN 2	Between the Ha'penny Bridge and the Millennium Bridge.	+353 (0)1 671 9666	Manager: Tony Deputy Manager: Paul	10-6PM MON-FRI 10-6PM SATS (7PM THURS)	1			
	HOLLAND									
45	AMSTERDAM E.C ENQUIRIES OUTSIDE U.K.	Van Woustraat 123, 1074AH, Amsterdam, Holland	5 minutes drive from from the Rai. At the Rai, turn into the Rooseveltlaan, turn left at the first big tram crossroads, store is 400 metres on the right.	+31 (0)20 4712 677	Manager: Adrian Deputy Manager: Anwar	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-9PM THURS FAX: 0031 (0)204 712 680	1	1		
46	GRONINGEN	Nieuwe Ebbingestraat 22, 9712NL, Holland NEW	3 minutes walk from the Grote Markt (main square). 200 metres from the Q-park garage on the Ossenmarkt.	+31 (0)50 3604 799	Manager: Andy Deputy Manager: Melle	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-9PM THURS	1	1		
47	UTRECHT	Wittevrouwenstraat 23, 3512 CS Utrecht NEW	A less than 15 minute walk, if you walk from the station in the direction of the schouwburg (theatre)	+31 (0)30 2238 548	Manager: James Deputy Manager: Karim	12-7PM TUE-FRI 10-5PM SATS (9PM THURS) (CLOSED MON & SUN)	1			

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BOXING DAY ALL STORES 10-4PM
27TH AND 28TH ALL STORES 10-7PM
29TH ALL STORES 10-5PM
NEW YEARS EVE ALL STORES 10-4PM
NEW YEARS DAY ALL STORES CLOSED

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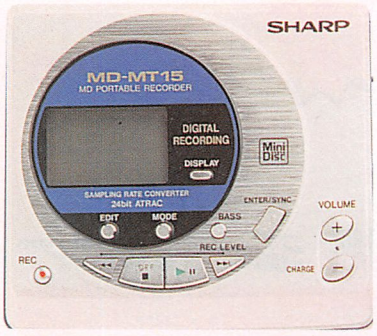

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We're not quite sure how we've managed to pull this unbelievable deal off, but we are proud to be able to offer you the U.K's first fullsize, 24 bit minidisc recorder for under £100. If it were any cheaper we'd be taken away by the men in white coats!
TSP £189.95

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MiniDisc SONY MZR500

£20 OFF TSP

If you're in the market for a compact portable minidisc recorder, this machine has got to be at the top of your list. It will give you up to 48 hours playback, features Sony's long play system, and runs off just one AA sized battery. *TSP £149.95*

SCOOP £129.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MiniDisc SHARP MDMT90

£30 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Aug '01
"This...model is a belter which offers super sound and super value. One of the best currently available." WHAT HI-FI?'s Stereo on the Go supplement.
TSP £179.95

SCOOP £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

All portables come with their respective branded headphones

COMPACT DISC DIGITAL AUDIO Recordable PHILIPS CDR600

£80 OFF TSP

Those nice folks at Philips have allowed us to knock a huge £80 off this brand spanking new, magnificent, cutting edge machine-bless their cotton socks!
TSP £229.95

SCOOP £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

COMPACT DISC DIGITAL AUDIO Recordable YAMAHA CDR-D651

£150 OFF TSP

This twin CD recorder boasts a wealth of features like double speed copying, CD text editing, and automatic fade in/out. And now at an eye-popping price of £299.95. *TSP £449.95*

SCOOP £299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

CASSETTE DECKS

YAMAHA KX393

£40 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sep '98
WHAT HI-FI? said of the KX393, "...this is an impressive recorder at the price, offering clarity of recording and ease of use."
TSP £139.95

Stuff HOT BUY

WHAT HI-FI? Awards 1998 Highly Recommended

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Nakamichi DR8

£350 OFF TSP

"The music flowed in a very natural manner," said Hi-Fi News and Record Review, "the whole experience was very enjoyable." Featuring Dolby B & C, automatic tape type selector and bias control.
TSP £549.95
Also 3 head DR10 only £299.95
TSP £799.95

SCOOP £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

HEADPHONES

SENNHEISER HD600

£150 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Oct '97
"Open, revealing, neutral and dynamic"- WHAT HI-FI? Oct '97. "An absolutely outstanding, altogether essential product"- *Audiophile Voice* Volume 5 Issue 4.
TSP £249.95
Also HD580 £59.95

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PLEASE NOTE

We quite frequently hear of our competitors (who are naturally frustrated at our prices) telling customers that the only reason we are so cheap is that our goods are either seconds, reurns, stolen, secondhand etc...This is utter nonsense and simply sour grapes on their part - they must be desperate! If it were true it would be both illegal and hardly good customer relations, something we assure you we take very seriously.
A few of the products we sell are exclusive to us but this is only for proven product where we are able to purchase huge quantities, often direct from the factory, cutting out other retailers and the distributors' profit margin, thereby saving you typically 33%.

All stock is **BRAND NEW IN SEALED CARTONS** and full guaranteed for one year unless clearly stated otherwise. We are unable to guarantee that multi-region machines will play all future disc releases. Further upgrade may be required.
Some prices may differ in our overseas stores due to distribution costs and currency fluctuations.
TSP = Typical Selling Price

TSPs and OSPs are based on information supplied by: WHAT HI-FI? Sound & Vision, Manufacturer, *Hi-Fi Choice*, *Home Cinema Choice*, *T3*, *What Video & TV*, *What DVD*, *Home Entertainment*, *Total DVD*, WHAT HI-FI? 'Stereo on the go' supplement & *DVD Buyer*. Further information available on request.

WE ACCEPT

Credit Cards (at no extra charge) - Switch, Solo and Electron, Cheques up to £1000 (at no extra charge) Part Exchange and even Cash.

GRADED products refer to ex-display, mail order returns or ex-service products, thoroughly tested and re-sold with a full as new guarantee.
OSP = Original Selling Price which was the price of the unit when first on sale.
Due to the varying sizes of our stores, not all goods may be stocked in all branches. Please call first if making a special journey. All stores have a clearance corner full of ex-demo / service and secondhand bargains and browsers are definitely welcome.

IF WE HAVEN'T GOT IT WE'RE SORRY Some of these offers are end-of-line clearouts and therefore by definition finite in supply - the answer is don't delay!

CORPORATE PURCHASERS

We offer a bulk purchase service for businesses (or others) who are looking for hi-fi separates in quantity. We currently supply Oddbins, Carphone Warehouse, Tie Rack and many other corporate accounts. We can include delivery, installation and on site service facilities. Please call Ricky on **020 7407 9090** for further details, or email: corporatesales@richersounds.com

THE PRICES IN THIS AD ARE GUARANTEED UNTIL 15TH DECEMBER 2001 BUT PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. E & OE.

We are an equal opportunity employer and give 22% of our profits to charity and our employee profit sharing scheme. Prices correct at time of going to press, E&OE. All trademarks are acknowledged.

The product 'Were' prices were available from the New Street store for 28 consecutive days in the last 6 months. TSPs are based (where possible) on prices quoted in national magazines or (if not available) on information supplied by the manufacturer.

RICHER Sounds

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR LATEST BARGAIN-PACKED 24 PAGE FUN CATALOGUE AND HI-FI GUIDE 0845 1 300 200 (Local Rate)

AIWA ARCAM CAMBRIDGE AUDIO CELESTION DENON ELTAX KEF KENWOOD MARANTZ MISSION NAD

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BUSIEST HI-FI RETAILER

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BUSIEST HI-FI RETAILER

DYNAMITE DVD DEALS

Cyber Home ADL228

MULTI-REGION

£40 OFF TSP

SCOOP £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Wow! A multi region DVD player from multi 'Best Buy' winning manufacturers Cyberhome for only £79.95.
Are we mad? *TSP £119.95*
Also available Cyberhome ADL528 with Dolby Digital only £99.95
"Let's cut to the chase: the AD-L528 is an absolute bargain" said *What Video & TV magazine*, when tested at £129.95 whilst *Total DVD* raved "AV performance is good, matching some players costing twice as much"

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV
DVD BEST BUY

aiwa XD-DV370

SAVE £100

MULTI-REGION

"Colour is subtly lifelike, contrast levels are excellent, it's a fine machine for sheer value alone, the 'DV370 is highly recommended."-*What Video and TV magazine* ***WERE £199.95***
****Simply purchase any home cinema amplifier or receiver over £199 to qualify***

SALE £99.95* BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ES ACOUSTIC SOLUTIONS DVD551

AMAZING VALUE

MULTI-REGION

With a built in Dolby Digital decoder, simply plug the six channel outputs into your Pro-logic amp and Robert is your father's brother, you have digital surround sound. Oh! Did we mention that it's multi-region too.

FACTORY DIRECT £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer DV340/343

£80 OFF TSP

MULTI-REGION
Available for only £149.95

Fully kitted out with coaxial, scart, s-video and video outputs, this fabulous bit of kit is sure to delight even the most discerning of movie buffs.
TSP £199.95

SCOOP £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Panasonic DVDRV31

£50 OFF TSP

MULTI-REGION
Available for only £179.95

Not only will you get cracking picture and sound quality from this classy machine, the DVDRV31 is also capable of playing re-writable CDs, recordable CDs and MP3 discs. *TSP £199.95*

SCOOP £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TOSHIBA SD210E

£60 OFF TSP

MULTI-REGION
Available for only £199.95

"Toshiba has done it again" *What Video and TV* exclaimed about this brand new model."both picture and sound quality are immaculate." *TSP £229.95*
STOCKS LIMITED
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sept '00

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV
DVD BEST BUY

SCOOP £169.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz DV3100

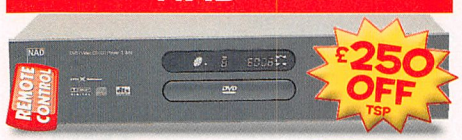
SAVE £100

MULTI-REGION

This latest player features a dual-laser assembly capable of handling all existing video and CD software. Since it's Marantz you know it's gotta be good!
WERE £299.95

SALE £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

NAD T550



£250 OFF TSP

MULTI-REGION
Available for only £299.95

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ *May '00*
"Excellent DVD-video player, and a great CD source too," was WHAT HI-FI?'s verdict on this sumptuous bit of kit.
TSP £499.95 WERE £349.95

SALE £249.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY DVPNS700

£100 OFF TSP

MULTI-REGION
Available for only £349.95

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sept '01
"The Sony delivers fine pictures..." WHAT HI-FI? went on to praise this DVD/ SACD's "Clarity, fidelity... and presence".
TSP £399.95 Stocks Limited.

HI FI CHOICE RECOMMENDED

SCOOP £299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz DV4100 OSE

AMAZING VALUE

MULTI-REGION

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ *Awards '01*
"At last! a machine that can be recommended as a do-it-all disc solution without costing silly money... pictures are clean and crisp, delivered with excellent detail, and a real feeling of depth of image" What Hi-Fi?

PRICE CHALLENGE £399.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS INSTORE!

WE'LL BEAT ANY PRICE 'TIL IT HURTS!

PRICE BEAT PER ITEM:
Product up to £375 ..... £10
Product up to £750 ..... £25
Product over £750 ..... £50
so call us last!

AND GIVE YOU UP TO £50

It is impossible to be 100% certain that we've the lowest in-store prices on absolutely everything we sell (especially on some current lines which suppliers don't like us advertising at a discount) even though we have people permanently watching the competition.

We are certain, however, that if you 'phone around and it does exist, call us last and we'll cheerfully beat any lower price by up to £50 any time up to 7 days after purchase! All we ask is that the hi-fi separates you're interested in are brand new and in stock at any local authorised dealer (within 75 miles), and that you visit your local store **in person** to confirm the price beat.

FREE VOUCHERS, GIFTS, CDs, CABLES & STANDS? If anyone else is offering money off vouchers/ discounts and free gifts/goods as part of the deal simply bring us their advert/voucher, we will not only honour this, but also beat their price likewise, by up to £50!!

WE ARE AUTHORISED DEALERS FOR EVERY PRODUCT WE SELL and will even *match* any *unauthorised* dealers' price and offer full back-up on the product.

An unbeatable offer from the UK's busiest hi-fi stores.

THE UK'S HOTTEST HI-FI BARGAINS...

SOME OF THESE OFFERS ARE EXCLUSIVE TO WHAT HI-FI? READERS. PLEASE QUOTE THIS AD WHEN CALLING.
AVAILABLE FROM 5TH NOVEMBER TO 15TH DECEMBER. HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE.

RICHER Sounds

PANASONIC PHILIPS PIONEER SHERWOOD SONY TANNOY TOSHIBA TEAC TECHNICS WHARFEDALE YAMAHA

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BUSIEST HI-FI RETAILER

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE

WE ARE OPEN EVERY SUNDAY 12-4PM FROM 25TH NOVEMBER 'TIL 6 JANUARY
SEE OPENING TIMES ON PAGE 8 (EXCEPT LONDON CITY)

HOME CINEMA BARGAINS

CELESTION CENTRE SPEAKER 60 WPC

SAVE £120

20cmH x 44cmW x 16cmD

DC12

At this price, they're sure to fly out of our stores, so don't delay, grab one today!

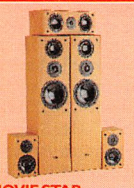
WERE £149.95

SALE £29.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

SINGLE

1 package per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Gale SPEAKER PACKAGE



AMAZING VALUE

MOVIE STAR

Pick up an entire speaker package from those experts at Gale for the stunningly low price of £120!

FACTORY DIRECT £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

PACKAGE

1 package per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY DOLBY PRO LOGIC RECEIVER 50 WPC

AMAZING VALUE

STRDE245

As well as the built in Dolby Pro-logic decoder, you get 50 watts of power, a full RDS/EON tuner and even a 5.1 channel input for upgrading to Dolby Digital.

FACTORY DIRECT £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

KENWOOD DOLBY DIGITAL RECEIVER 65 WPC

£80 OFF TSP

KRFV5050

"A no-frills player that performs brilliantly at a dirt cheap price point" was how *Essential Home Cinema* magazine described this Dolby Digital dynamo.

TSP £229.95

SCOOP £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

mission CENTRE SPEAKER 70 WPC

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

20cmH x 44cmW x 16cmD

70CI

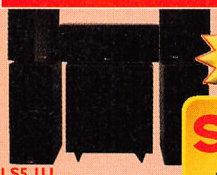
"It is crisp and bright and has excellent bass", *Home Entertainment* magazine. *TSP £99.95*

SALE £49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

SINGLE

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TEAC SPEAKER PACKAGE



SAVE £30

LS5.1U

Complete with 125-watt centre and front channels, 100-watt bi-polar rear speakers, and a 60-watt sub-woofer all for the silly price of £120! *WERE £149.95*

SALE £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

PACKAGE

1 package per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Sherwood DOLBY DIGITAL RECEIVER 65 WPC

£50 OFF TSP

RVD6095RDS

"The Sherwood sounds good, looks good and has many of the features a £500 receiver would be proud of." - *Home Cinema Choice.*

TSP £249.95

FACTORY DIRECT £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

CELESTION DIGITAL PRE+POWER AMPLIFIER 160 WPC

£700 OFF TSP

DCA-5/DDP-5.1

We've slashed the price on this gorgeously finished Dolby Digital pre/power amp. Reduced from £1000 to £300.

TSP £999.95

SCOOP £299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

KEF CENTRE SPEAKER 120 WPC

£40 OFF TSP

CRESTA CENTRE

Everything Kef touch turns to gold. "The Cresta is well voiced, and dialogue is particularly well handled." - *Home Entertainment.* All hail the wizards of Kef!

TSP £99.95

SCOOP £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

SINGLE

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

LIMIT SPEAKER PACKAGE

AMAZING VALUE

HT5.1

Small, but perfectly formed, these lush, aluminium finish home cinema active speakers are ideal.

FACTORY DIRECT £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

PACKAGE

1 package per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

KENWOOD DOLBY DIGITAL RECEIVER 110 WPC

£100 OFF TSP

KRFXV9050

WHAT HI-FI? described the '9050 as "a well equipped receiver". With Dolby Digital, Prologic II and DTS decoding at a silly price, it's not hard to see why!

TSP £399.95

SCOOP £299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YAMAHA DOLBY DIGITAL RECEIVER 140 WPC

SAVE £400

RXV800

Yamaha's yuletide youngster's the yummiest yet (Who writes this stuff?). Alliteration aside, this gorgeous receiver also boasts a full learning remote control.

WERE £799.95

SALE £399.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

aiwa SUBWOOFER 40 WPC

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

TSW37

It's a sub, it's forty quid and it's active! And we don't mean it goes to the gym and cycles to work. *TSP £79.95*

SCOOP £39.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

SINGLE

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax BI POLAR REARS 60 WPC

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ June '98

HT2BP

WHAT HI-FI? said: "The HT2's make the most of any Pro-logic sound track... with studious accuracy."

WERE £149.95

SAVE £70

SALE £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY DOLBY DIGITAL RECEIVER 120 WPC

£500 OFF TSP

STRV555ES

WHAT HI-FI? Described this lush bit of kit as "Every bit as sophisticated as you'd expect from Sony" and that was when it cost £1000!

TSP £999.95

SCOOP £499.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YAMAHA DOLBY DIGITAL AMPLIFIER 110 WPC

£1000 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sept '00

DSPAX1

"When it comes to sheer performance the Yamaha is a spectacularly good amp,...a superb buy" - WHAT HI-FI?

TSP £1999.95 Also DSPAX2 for only £599.95

SCOOP £999.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

OUR EXCLUSIVE OFFERS ON TOP BRAND FACTORY DIRECT PRODUCTS ARE GUARANTEED TO SAVE YOU A FORTUNE ALL YEAR ROUND

As the UK's biggest hi-fi retailer, we are using our enormous buying power to deal with factories and manufacturers direct which gives us the opportunity to: **a) negotiate even better prices through massive bulk buying. b) cut out the typical middleman distributor (together with their chunk of profit).** This means that elsewhere in Europe these products often cost over 50% more! - we pass these huge savings on to you. All our items are carefully selected on grounds of their sonic ability as well as build quality and we believe they represent the very best possible value for money.

WE'VE CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMAN ON THESE WORLD-FAMOUS BRANDS

cambridge audio · Audio Innovations · Wharfedale (selected models) · synergy · Paradigm · eclipse · Sherwood · ARISTON · CELESTION (Selected models) · JPW · Gale · eltax (selected models)

An ambition of Mr Richer's fulfilled. Sandwiched between General Motors, the biggest company in the world with sales of $123.8 billion for 1991 and AT&T, the most profitable corporation in history is your favourite hi-fi store:

THE WORLD'S BUSIEST RETAILER GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS 2001

Sales per unit area

The record for the greatest sales based on square footage of selling space is held by Richer Sounds plc, the hi-fi retail chain, with sales at their busiest outlet at London Bridge Walk reaching £17.553 per square foot.

Without your support we'd never have done it. Thanks! **Copyright © Guinness Publishing Ltd.**

DEMONSTRATION CHECKLIST

Please phone our stores to book a demonstration. Even though some of our stores have many dem rooms we ask you to phone and book to make sure there is a sales colleague free to look after you. We'll provide the coffee but please do feel free to bring along any of the following to ensure your dem is as comprehensive as possible:

- Your own choice of music
- Your own video cassette/ DVD for AV dems
- Your own hi-fi to compare
- Sandwiches
- Friends/pets
- Your own interconnects
- Your ears!

Happy Demo-ing!

AT THESE AMAZING PRICES, THE BOXES WILL BE FLYING OUT OF OUR STORES IN HUGE QUANTITIES AND THEREFORE HAVE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE MANUFACTURERS' ABILITY TO SUPPLY.

TSP=Typical Selling Price. For explanation please refer to page 7 of this ad.

RICHER Sounds

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR LATEST BARGAIN-PACKED 24 PAGE FUN CATALOGUE AND HI-FI GUIDE 0845 1 300 200 (Local Rate)

AIWA ARCAM CAMBRIDGE AUDIO CELESTION DENON ELTAX KEF KENWOOD MARANTZ MISSION NAD

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BUSIEST HI-FI RETAILER

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BUSIEST HI-FI RETAILER

SPECIAL SPEAKER OFFERS

MISSION 700 (BLACK) — 75 WATTS

£80 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Apr '98

"There's... much to commend in these speakers...the front ported 700's prove unfussy in terms of positioning" WHAT HI-FI? Stated in the June 2000 review of these classy bookshelfers "They deliver Santana's Smooth with verve and vigour, doing a fine job with the driving bassline, demonstrating a surprisingly deep low-end ability for speakers of this size. Add excellent dynamics and a informative midrange that serves up vocals with superb clarity, and you have a pair of speakers that are far from has beens."

TSP £129.95
Also available in beech £59.95 per pair.

SCOOP £49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ARISTON MSX03 — 50 WATTS

31cmH x 17.5cmW x 17.5cmD

A pair of hi-fi speakers for under a tenner?! How this one got past the board we don't know! You would be mad to miss out on this offer of a lifetime.

Intermittent stock due to high demand. TSP £49.95
Also improved MSX03 MKII with brackets £59.95

£40 OFF TSP

SCOOP £9.99 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

JPW RADIUS — 70 WATTS

A pair of floor-standers from one of Britain's oldest and most highly respected speaker manufacturers for only forty pounds! How do we do it? *TSP £119.95*

£80 OFF TSP

FACTORY DIRECT £39.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

KEF CRESTA 1 (BLACK) — 70 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ April '00

"Excellent sound; expressive midrange; system-friendly sound and specification; great build." said WHAT HI-FI? in April '00. Pretty definitive, eh?

WERE £99.95
Also available in cherry £69.95 per pair.

SAVE £40

SALE £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax MONITOR 3 — 90 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ June '00

B

30cmH x 19cmW x 23cmD

"Grace, detail and musicality that belies the price tag", screamed WHAT HI-FI?

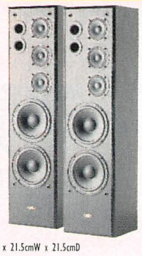
WERE £129.95.
Also available in beech £69.95 per pair.

SAVE £70

SALE £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax C205 — 90 WATTS



84cmH x 21.5cmW x 21.5cmD

These dynamic floorstanders from Eltax are superb for all types of music. They give a huge sound for a small price. *TSP £199.95*

£140 OFF TSP

SCOOP £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MISSION 701 (BLACK) — 100 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ May '98

B

45cmH x 22cmW x 30cmD

WHAT HI-FI? said, "for a vivacious and powerful sound... outstanding value for money".

TSP £159.95
Also available in beech £79.95 per pair.

£90 OFF TSP

SCOOP £69.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

KEF CRESTA 2 (BLACK) — 100 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Jan '01

B

"The new KEFs are stunning" exclaimed WHAT HI-FI? "They produce a sound that combines refinement and excitement in equal doses" the review concluded "a superb all-rounder that has no significant weaknesses".

WERE £149.95
Also available in cherry £89.95 per pair.

SAVE £70

SALE £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Wharfedale LOUDPANELS — 70 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Nov '99

"Look like picture frames and are highly musical." - WHAT HI-FI? In fact they don't just look like picture frames, they are picture frames. With a discreet subwoofer included you get a lot for your money. *WERE £299.95*

SAVE £180

SALE £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED SET OF 3

1 set per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

B MISSION 702e — 100 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ April '99

84cmH x 21.5cmW x 21.5cmD

"Outstanding... up there with the best budget floor standers" - WHAT HI-FI?

TSP £199.95 Also available in beech £109.95 per pair.

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

B eltax LIBERTY 5+(BLACK) — 100 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ March '99

These dynamic floorstanders from Eltax are superb for all types of music. They give a huge sound for a small price.

TSP £199.95 Also available in beech £109.95 per pair.

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

KEF CRESTA 3 (BLACK) — 100 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ April '00

"Rhythms crash through with fluidity and precision while the midrange produces vocals that simply ooze refinement." said WHAT HI-FI? in April '00 awarding the Cresta 3's 5 out of 5.

WERE £249.95
Also available in cherry £129.95 per pair.

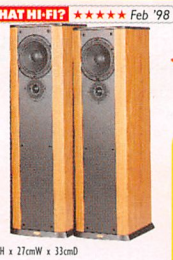
SAVE £130

SALE £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

B eltax LR6.5 — 100 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Feb '98



88cmH x 27cmW x 33cmD

"Bass sounds suitably powerful... they will not fail to impress."- WHAT HI-FI? *TSP £349.95.*

£230 OFF TSP

SCOOP £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PER PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SUPERCARE

The best "FREE" extended guarantee offer EVER!

If you haven't taken advantage of our amazing Supercare cover by the time it expires, then simply return the form within one month of that date and we will happily refund its full purchase value.

OFFER APPLIES ONLY ON SUPERCARE PURCHASED AFTER 13TH NOVEMBER 1998

Repairs free for 3 years PLUS...

- Free Loan Machine
- Free Routine Servicing /Maintenance checks
- Up to 50% Buyback Guarantee
- 30 Day Cooling-off Period
- Money back at end of period if unused

£9.99 (most models)

THE UK'S HOTTEST HI-FI BARGAINS...

SOME OF THESE OFFERS ARE EXCLUSIVE TO WHAT HI-FI? READERS. PLEASE QUOTE THIS AD WHEN CALLING.
AVAILABLE FROM 5TH NOVEMBER TO 15TH DECEMBER. HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE.

RICHER Sounds

PANASONIC PHILIPS PIONEER SHERWOOD SONY TANNOY TOSHIBA TEAC TECHNICS WHARFEDALE YAMAHA

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BUSIEST HI-FI RETAILER

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE

WE ARE OPEN EVERY SUNDAY 12-4PM FROM 25TH NOVEMBER 'TIL 6 JANUARY
SEE OPENING TIMES ON PAGE 8
(EXCEPT LONDON CITY)

AIWA ARCAM CAMBRIDGE AUDIO CELESTION DENON ELTAX KEF KENWOOD MARANTZ MISSION NAD

AMAZING AMPLIFIER GIVEAWAY

cambridge audio A1

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ June '97

"Strong and effortless with a wide range of equipment... This is a bargain piece of hi-fi with a magic all of its own" - WHAT HI-FI? Sept '95.
TSP £99.95
Also A1 v2 only £69.95

£40 OFF TSP

FACTORY DIRECT £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer A109 60 WPC

£50 OFF TSP

Pioneer's new A109 is a cracker. With 40 watts per channel, 6 inputs and a sound quality that belies its meagre price tag virtually guarantees long-term success and a load of happy customers.
TSP £129.95

SCOOP £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz PM4000 50 WPC

SAVE £50

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ July '01

WHAT HI-FI? commented that the PM4000 "has a control and assurance about its presentation that hints at greatness" If that wasn't enough, we've reduced this cracking amp by £50
WERE £149.95

SALE £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

cambridge audio A5 60 WPC

AMAZING VALUE

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Awards '01

"Rich and powerful, the A5 combines weight with insight into the mix... it punches above its weight extraordinarily well" was how WHAT HI-FI? described this cracking amplifier in the 2001 awards issue

FACTORY DIRECT £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY TA-FE370 70 WPC

£20 OFF TSP

Sony have come up with another winner in the TA-FE370. Its got every facility you could ever want, and then some! Featuring full remote control, 6 audio inputs and 70 watts per channel, we defy you not to be impressed. *TSP £139.95*

SCOOP £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ARCAM ALPHA 7R 45 WPC

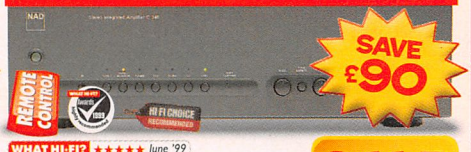
SAVE £120

"The richness of the sound, and in particular the warmth of the bass, makes a wide range of music easy to enjoy. The amp certainly never sounds flustered or breathless, even when driving hard." -WHAT HI FI?
WERE £299.95.
In-store callers only

SALE £179.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

NAD C340 50 WPC



SAVE £90

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ June '99

"The solidly built C340 impresses immediately with its loud and unburstable presentation... there's more than adequate clout on tap here to ensure that savage dynamic swings are a walk in the park for this 50W wonder"-WHAT HI-FI? April 1999.
WERE £269.95

SALE £179.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TANTALISING TUNERS

ARISTON TX710RDS

£40 OFF TSP

This one's going to have the competition flummoxed-a RDS tuner for under £60! Deals just don't come any bigger or better than this one-grab one today.
WERE £99.95

SCOOP £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY STSB920

£40 OFF TSP

Hi-Fi Choice recommended the '920 saying the sound is "clear and communicative, with particularly good bass and low hiss".
TSP £179.95 Stocks Limited.

SCOOP £139.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

cambridge audio T500

AMAZING VALUE

"Looks simple but SOUNDS SUPERB" say WHAT HI-FI? *Hi-Fi World* magazine had similar praise for this 3-band tuner: "Cambridge's T500 is a very accomplished all-round performer". *Also Cambridge Audio T100 £119.95*

FACTORY DIRECT £179.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

THINKING OF UPGRADING? WE PAY THE MOST!

GIVE US YOUR LOUSY-SOUNDING MINI SYSTEM AND WE'LL BLOW UP TO

£100 OFF

THE PRICE OF OUR SEPARATES SYSTEMS!*

ALL WORKING MINI SYSTEMS DONATED TO CHARITY

Do yourself a favour, dispose of your tired mini system, as long as it's working OK, in any Richer Sounds store and we'll give you £100 off a fantastic-sounding separates system at over £500*. If it is faulty we'll still take it off your hands and give you £50 or £25 off respectively.

Offer applies to minis, midis and micros.
*(£50 off a separates system at over £200 i.e. amp, speakers & CD player; with CD not music centre; at the typical selling price - Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer/ promotion)

We are also happy to take your hi-fi separates purchased from other dealers and, as far as we know, we offer the most generous part-exchange allowances for your old equipment. We only ask that your equipment is less than 5 years old, in good working order and in good condition (older equipment is welcome by negotiation).
Please note that we are unable to give part exchange quotations without prior viewing of the unit(s).

TSP=Typical Selling Price. For explanation please refer to page 7 of this ad.

RICHER Sounds

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR LATEST BARGAIN-PACKED 24 PAGE FUN CATALOGUE AND HI-FI GUIDE 0845 1 300 200 (Local Rate)

MORDAUNT-SHORT NAD PANASONIC PARADIGM PHILIPS PIONEER SANSUI

THE WORLD'S BUSIEST RETAILER

Guinness Book of Records 1991 - 2001 editions

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE

RICHER Sounds

THE UK'S BUSIEST HI-FI RETAILER

SENNHEISER SHERWOOD SONY TANNOY TDE TOSHIBA TEAC TECHNICS WHARFEDALE YAMAHA AND MANY MORE...

SPECTACULAR CD PLAYER SAVINGS

eclipse CD102

AMAZING VALUE

For all those seeking a real bargain, we bring you the successor to the WHAT HI-FI? 5-star award-winning CD101. Full-size and with remote control.

FACTORY DIRECT £29.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXE220

£40 OFF TSP

The '220 got the full treatment in WHAT-HI-FI?'s March '99 review, "...strides forward with confidence and composure, never giving the impression of being out of its depth." *TSP £89.95*

SCOOP £49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXE330

£40 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Apr '00

WHAT HI-FI? thought this player had, "a sound to challenge some of the best machines in the competitive sub-£200 market". *TSP £99.95*

SCOOP £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Technics SLPG4

£30 OFF TSP

We've knocked a third off this cracking CD player from Technics. Fully equipped with a remote, optical output and direct access control on the front panel, need we say any more? *TSP £99.95*

SCOOP £69.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXE530

£50 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Aug '99

"This particular machine is a classy piece of kit... hi-fi value for money doesn't get much better than this." WHAT HI-FI? August '99 issue. *TSP £129.95*

SCOOP £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXE570

£40 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Aug '01

"Musical and controlled, but with good punch and drive...in the sub-£200 arena the Sony is a striking arrival" was how WHAT HI-FI? Described this budget dynamo. *TSP £139.95*

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXB740

£80 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? enjoyed this top notch CD player when they reviewed it in July '01. They described the sound quality as "very good indeed" they went on to say "the Sony sounds classy...A bit of a star, no question." *TSP £199.95*

SCOOP £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

NAD C540

£200 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sept '00

"We find it hard to believe that the C540 could ever fail to impress sonically due to the sheer panache with which it delivers music." - WHAT HI-FI? September 2000 *TSP £349.95*

SCOOP £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXB930

£150 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sept '99

This fantastic machine includes an optical and electrical digital outs and the usual high build quality. But what's really amazing is that, thanks to us, it's yours for £150 less than the typical selling price. *TSP £299.95*

SCOOP £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ARCAM ALPHA 7SE

SAVE £££'S

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sept '00

"Its command of rhythm and dynamics really brings the music to life"-WHAT HI-FI? Awards 1999. *In-store callers only*

AT A PRICE WE PROMISED WE WOULDN'T PRINT! BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY SCDXB940

£350 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ July '00

SACD PLAYER

"Impressive levels of detail and an excellent sense of musical dynamics. It has a fluidity of rhythm and expression that results in an airy and appealing sound." -WHAT HI-FI? Feb '01. *TSP £549.95*

SCOOP £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

REMOTES

ONE FOR ALL 6

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

Built in modem allows remote to be upgraded over the phone.

SCOOP £19.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

cambridge audio M1+

"For all your remote needs" - WHAT HI-FI?

Stuff HOT BUY

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ July '99 Best Buy

HomeEntertainment MARCH '99 BEST BUY

SCOOP £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PHILIPS PRONTO

NEW 2ME MODEL

£100 OFF TSP

HomeEntertainment AWARDS 1999/2000 WINNER

"A dream for those who have always wanted an intuitive, sexy remote." - *Home Entertainment.* *TSP £249.95*

SCOOP £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

T'RIFFIC TECHNICS TURNTABLE

Technics SL1200/1210

£200 OFF TSP

This Direct Drive, quick start turntable is the DJ's favourite-and it's not hard to see why! It's robust, good looking, and it sounds great too. What's more, we've knocked a colossal £200 from TSP on this dazzling vinyl spinner. *TSP £499.95*

SALE £299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YOU'RE ALWAYS PROTECTED WITH RICHER SOUNDS' "1-2" SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

ONE - Lowest Price Guarantee

If, at any time within 7 days of your purchase from us, you find the identical item in stock and advertised at a lower price, we will fully protect you. Just bring in the ad, along with your receipt, and, once verified, we'll gladly refund the difference AND give you up to £50! (see page 6 for further details).

TWO - Satisfaction Guarantee

If you're not satisfied, neither are we. If, for any reason, you're not completely happy with your purchase, simply return it in its original condition within 14 days for an exchange. It's that simple. Just bring it back to any Richer Sounds store, along with your receipt, manual and all original packaging.

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!

FREE MD, CDR OR TAPE FOR EVERY CUSTOMER

WHEN YOU TAKE THIS VOUCHER INTO ONE OF OUR STORES.

(No purchase necessary, one voucher/item per person. Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion) OFFER VALID UNTIL 15th DECEMBER 2001.

THE UK'S HOTTEST HI-FI BARGAINS...

SOME OF THESE OFFERS ARE EXCLUSIVE TO WHAT HI-FI? READERS. PLEASE QUOTE THIS AD WHEN CALLING.
AVAILABLE FROM 5TH NOVEMBER TO 15TH DECEMBER. HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE.

RICHER Sounds

GALE GOODMANS JBL JPW JVC KEF KENWOOD MARANTZ MISSION

ELTAX DENON CELESTION CAMBRIDGE AUDIO AUDIO INNOVATIONS ARCAM AKAI AIWA

ENORMOUS RANGE: HI-FI SEPARATES, MINI SYSTEMS, MINIDISC, CD PLAYERS, CD-R, CD-RW, CASSETTE DECKS, DVD, DOLBY DIGITAL, SPEAKERS, ACCESSORIES

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BUSIEST HI-FI RETAILER

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE

WE ARE OPEN EVERY SUNDAY 12-4PM FROM 25TH NOVEMBER 'TIL 6 JANUARY
SEE OPENING TIMES ON PAGE 8
(EXCEPT LONDON CITY)

FOR THESE PRICES, VOUCHER MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE.

TDK SA90
HI FI CHOICE RECOMMENDED
TSP £2.49 WERE 69p

£1.92 OFF TSP

SALE 57p

90 MINUTE CHROME CASSETTE
NO MIN/MAX 20 PER CUSTOMER

One voucher per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TDK MD74
HI FI CHOICE RECOMMENDED
TSP £2.99 WERE 99p

£2.20 OFF TSP

SALE 79p

74 MINUTE MINIDISC
NO MIN/MAX 20 PER CUSTOMER
PACKAGING MAY VARY

One voucher per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDR74
WERE £1.99

SAVE £1.20

SALE 79p

RECORDABLE CD
NO MIN/MAX 20 PER CUSTOMER

One voucher per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY BATTERIES
TSP £3.49

£2.50 OFF TSP

SCOOP 99p PER PACK OF 4

ALKALINE "AA" BATTERIES 4-PACK
MAXIMUM 10 PACKS PER CUSTOMER

One voucher per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

DURACELL PLUS BATTERIES
TSP £3.99

£2.80 OFF TSP

SCOOP £1.19 PER PACK OF 4

ALKALINE 'AA' BATTERIES 4-PACK
MAXIMUM 10 PACKS PER CUSTOMER

One voucher per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Verbatim CDRW74
TSP £3.99

£2.50 OFF TSP

Picture Approximate

SCOOP £1.49

RE-WRITABLE CD
NO MIN/MAX 20 PER CUSTOMER

One voucher per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

HI-FI SYSTEM

BUYING A HI-FI SYSTEM COULDN'T BE SIMPLER WITH SUCH A HUGE AMOUNT OF CHOICE...

£160 OFF TSP

THIS COMPLETE SYSTEM FOR ONLY £169.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
All basic connecting leads included

CD PLAYER
TECHNICS SLPG4
TSP £99.95
READY COMING

+

AMPLIFIER
CAMBRIDGE A1
TSP £99.95
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ June '97

+

SPEAKERS
MISSION 700
75 WPC
HI FI CHOICE RECOMMENDED
TSP £129.95 PR
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ April '98

FANCY SOMETHING DIFFERENT? HERE ARE A FEW ALTERNATIVES:

CD PLAYERS

Or
SONY CDPXE330
TSP £99.95
READY COMING
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ April '00

Or for an extra £20
SONY CDPXE530
TSP £129.95
READY COMING
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Aug '99

Or for an extra £20
YAMAHA CDX496
TSP £179.95
READY COMING

Or for an extra £70
DENON DCD835
TSP £279.95
READY COMING
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Oct '98

Or for an extra £90
SONY CDPXB930
TSP £299.95
READY COMING
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sept '99

Or for an extra £150
SONY SCDXB940
TSP £549.95
READY COMING
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ July '00

AMPLIFIERS

For for an extra £40
KENWOOD KAF3030
50 WPC
HI FI CHOICE BEST BUY
TSP £249.95

Or for an extra £50
DENON PMA255UK
30 WPC
TSP £139.95
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Oct '00

Or for an extra £70
MARANTZ PM6010SE
50 WPC
READY COMING
TSP £229.95
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sept '99

Or for an extra £190
SONY TAFB940
60 WPC
READY COMING
TSP £299.95

SPEAKERS

Or
ELTAX MONITOR 3
TSP £129.95 PR
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ June '00

Or for an extra £20
MISSION 701
HI FI CHOICE BEST BUY
TSP £159.95 PR
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ May '98

Or for an extra £30
MISSION M71
TSP £129.95 PR
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ March '99

Or for an extra £30
ELTAX LIBERTY 5+
TSP £199.95 PR
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ June '00

Or for an extra £40
TANNOY MX2
TSP £149.95 PR
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ July '99

Or for an extra £50
MISSION 702e
TSP £199.95 PR
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ April '99

Or for an extra £60
MISSION 771
HI FI CHOICE BEST BUY
TSP £169.95 PR
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Aug '98

Or for an extra £160
MISSION 773e
TSP £399.95 PR
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Oct '00

HOME CINEMA SYSTEM

A COMPLETE DOLBY DIGITAL DVD 5-SPEAKER HOME CINEMA SYSTEM FOR HOW MUCH?

£190 OFF TSP

THIS COMPLETE SYSTEM FOR ONLY £359.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
All basic connecting leads included

DVD PLAYER
PANASONIC DVDRV31
TSP £199.95

+

DOLBY DIGITAL RECEIVER
KENWOOD KRFV5050
100 WPC
TSP £229.95

+

SPEAKER PACKAGE
GALE MOVIE STAR
TSP £119.95

FOR EVEN MORE CHOICE TRY ONE OF THESE!

DVD PLAYERS

For an extra £50
TOSHIBA SD210
TSP £299.95
READY COMING
BEST BUY
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Sept '01

Or for an extra £100
MARANTZ DV4100
TSP £399.95
READY COMING

Or for an extra £100
NADT550
TSP £499.95
READY COMING
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ May '00

DIGITAL ELECTRONICS

For an extra £10
SHERWOOD RVD6095RDS
65 WPC
READY COMING
TSP £249.95
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Awards '99

Or for an extra £100
YAMAHA DSPAX620
90 WPC
READY COMING
TSP £399.95
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ July '01

Or for an extra £160
SONY STRDB940
90 WPC
READY COMING
TSP £499.95
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Oct '00

SPEAKER PACKAGES

For an extra £140
MISSION CINEMA 70
TSP £479.85
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ July '00

Or for an extra £170
TANNOY:
MX3 (Fronts)
MX1 (Rears)
MXC (Centre)
TSP £459.85

TSP=Typical Selling Price. For explanation please refer to page 7 of this ad.

RICHER Sounds

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR LATEST BARGAIN-PACKED 24 PAGE FUN CATALOGUE AND HI-FI GUIDE 0845 1 300 200 (Local Rate)

Preamps Best Buys

up to £800

1 **Cyrus aCA7.5** £800 (far right)
2 **Myryad MP100** £600
3 **Linn Kolektor** £495 (right)

over £800

1 **Musical Fidelity AC3R** £999
2 **TAG DPA-32R** £1695
3 **Krell KRC-3** £3390

KEY: Line level inputs For CD players, tuners and the like.
Phono stage Allows a turntable to be connected. Come in moving coil (C) or moving magnet (M) flavours, or are even switchable between the two

N = No, Opt = Optional
Tape loops In/out sockets for recording/playback
Tone controls Well, you might need them one day...
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

Up to £1000

Product	£	Verdict	We said...	The facts					
				Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Tone controls	Headphones	Remote
Audio Analogue Bellini	560	★★★★☆ Aug 01	The Bellini/Donizetti combination fuses traditional refinement with real muscle.	4	m/c	1	No	No	Yes
Audio Note M-Zero	449	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Pair the M-Zero with the P-Zero power amp for a generous helping of valve magic.	4	No	1	No	No	Yes
Audio Note M-One R	749	★★★★★ Oct 00	If you want a musically talented preamp there are few better at this price.	4	No	1	No	No	Yes
AVI S2000MP	949	★★★★☆ Oct 96	Combines with the S2000MM monobloc amps to make a fast, dynamic, incisive sound.	6	Opt	2	No	No	Yes
Creek OBH-12	199	★★★★★ Apr 98	Provided you have a simple system this could be the most purist preamplifier solution.	2	No	1	No	No	Yes
Creek P43R	350	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Look past the physical aspects of the P43R/A43 combo and it's an excellent buy.	4	Opt	2	No	Yes	Yes
Crimson CS-610C	450	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Idiosyncratic combo of CS610C/CS630D, but it's sure to please.	3	m/c	1	No	No	No
Cyrus Pre aCA 7.5	700	★★★★★ Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001, combined with the SmartPower and the PSX-R.	5	No	2	No	Yes	Yes
Linn Kolektor	495	★★★★★ Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. The IK85/Kolektor combo plays music superbly.	8	m	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Linn Wakonda	750	★★★★☆ Mar 00	There's much to like about the Wakonda/IK140 combo but it isn't the most transparent.	3	Opt	1	No	Yes	Yes
Magnum MP120	375	★★★★★ Aug 96	With the MF120 amp it delivers a highly revealing, attention-grabbing, rewarding sound.	5	Opt	1	No	No	No
Moth 30 Series Passive	175	★★★☆☆ Sep 92	Passive, line level only preamp. Voices sound natural, but results dependent on cable.	3	No	1	No	No	No
Musical Fidelity X-P100	800	★★★★★ Jan 99	A preamp boasting amazing clarity; combined with the X-AS100 it gives stunning sound.	5	m	1	No	No	Yes
Musical Fidelity A3CR	1000	★★★★★ Jul 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. The A3CR combo is an exciting listen without fatigue or stress	4	m/c	1	No	No	Yes
Myryad MP 100	600	★★★★★ Aug 01	The powerhouse MP100/MA240 pair impresses with a broad spread of talents.	4	Opt	2	No	Yes	Yes
NAD C160	430	★★★★★ Sep 00	A class product; gutsy and powerful-sounding and it's well built.	4	m/c	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD S100	600	★★★★☆ Apr 99	The combination of S100/S200 gives an easygoing sound that packs a hefty punch.	5	Opt	2	No	No	Yes
Naim NAC 112	625	★★★★★ Aug 01	Thoroughly entertaining pre/power combo (NAC 112/NAP 150) and it's upgradeable.	3	Opt	3	No	No	Yes
Parasound P/HP-850	399	★★★★☆ Oct 99	The combination of P/HP-850/HCA-750 pre/power gives a powerful but relaxed sound.	3	m	1	Yes	Yes	No
Quad 99	750	★★★★★ Jun 00	One for the listener who likes a cultured sound - we like the 99 pre/power combo a lot.	3	m/c	1	Yes	No	Yes
Rotel RC1070	350	★★★☆☆ Aug 01	Competent combination of RB1070 and RB1080 but lacks all-round ability.	3	m	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sonneteer Sedley	399	★★★★★ Jun 99	Sparkling treble, open midband and taut bass make this phono stage a real star.	0	m/c	0	No	No	No
Sugden Headmaster	519	★★★★★ Jun 01	Headphone amp/preamp - a great niche product that sounds brilliant.	3	No	0	No	Yes	No
Sumo Athena II B	987	★★★★☆ Dec 94	Combine with the Polaris III power amplifier for effortless power. A delight to live with.	5	Opt	1	No	No	No
TAG McLaren Audio PA10	849	★★★★☆ Feb 99	The PA10 and 60P pre/power are undoubtedly fine products but need careful partnering.	5	m/c	3	No	Yes	No
Talk Electronics Hurricane 3.1	900	★★★★☆ Jul 00	Combine with the Tornado 3.1 for a system-friendly, easy-on-the-ear amplifier.	4	Opt	2	No	No	Yes
Technics SU-C1010	300	★★★☆☆ Oct 99	Combine with the SE-A1010 for versatility, but there are better sounding amps around.	3	m	2	No	No	Yes

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Product	£	Verdict	We said...	The facts					
				Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Tone controls	Headphones	Remote
Audion Silver Night Premier 2	1500	★★★★★ Sep 97	Gorgeous open sound and breathtaking clarity when partnered with sensitive speakers.	4	m	1	No	No	Yes
Chord Electronics CPA 2200	2740	★★★★★ Jul 99	With the SPM600 power amp, the Chords are very hard to beat - excel in detail retrieval.	6	No	2	No	No	Yes
Chord Electronics CPA 4000 En	6675	★★★★★ May 01	Use with the SPM 1200E amp - they belong right at the forefront of high-end amplification.	6	No	2	No	Yes	Yes
DNM Reson 3C Primus	2100	★★★★★ May 01	Superlative resolution, dynamics and timing - excellent phono stage. Tested with PA3.	5	mc	1	No	No	No
DNM Series 3C Six	4100	★★★★☆ Mar 99	Used with the DNM PA3s these amps merit a serious audition - cosmetics don't impress.	5	mc	1	No	No	No
EAR 864	1450	★★★★★ Awd 01	Gutsy but involving valve-amp, used with 861 power, is something special.	4	m/c	1	No	No	No
GRAAF GM 13.5B II	3950	★★★★★ Jan 00	Partner with GM20 power amp for a truly magical valve combination. Brings music to life.	5	No	1	No	No	No
Jeff Rowland Synergy	4999	★★★★★ Jul 96	Makes perfect rock'n'roll with the model 2 power amp and bps 2 battery power supply.	5	m	1	No	No	No
Krell KAV-250p	2398	★★★★★ Feb 98	With the KAV-250A power amp this amp makes music that's staggeringly realistic.	4	No	1	No	No	Yes
Krell KRC-3	3390	★★★★★ Jan 00	The combo of FBP300C power amp with this preamp, make a superb performer.	4	No	1	No	No	Yes
Linn Kairn	1700	★★★☆☆ Aw 91	Intended for multiroom applications. Confident, astonishingly vivid presentation.	2	m/c	2	No	No	Yes
Mark Levinson No380S	6495	★★★★★ Jan 00	Fabulous build and powerful yet subtle performance. Tested with the 334 power amp.	5	No	2	No	No	Yes
Meridian 562V.2	1385	★★★★★ Oct 00	Glimpse the future with the Meridian 568 processor, 562V.2 controller and 558 amp.	7	Opt	1	No	No	Yes
Meridian 502	1385	★★★★☆ Jul 97	Sophisticated, and muscular, the 502/505s combination is astonishingly flexible.	7	Opt	2	No	No	Yes
Moon P-3	2650	★★★★☆ Awd 01	Beautifully built, the P-3/W-3 combination puts listenability before attack.	7	No	1	No	No	Yes
Naim NAC 82	2435	★★★★★ Mar 93	Revealing amp loves strongly rhythmic music, but will illuminate any style.	6	Opt	3	No	No	Yes
Roksan ROK L2.5	1250	★★★★★ Nov 95	Combine with the equally seductive ROK-S1.5 power amp for a sound as good as it looks.	4	No	1	No	No	No
Sumo Artemis+PSU	1595	★★★★★ Jan 97	This preamp with the Sumo Andromeda III power amp stuns with amazing slam.	5	Opt	1	No	No	Yes
TAG McLaren DPA32R-dab	1695	★★★★★ Nov 00	Combined preamp and DAC, use with the CDT20R T2I for an extremely musical delivery.	6	No	1	No	No	Yes
XTC PRE-1	1350	★★★★★ Jul 98	The PRE-1/POW-1 combination has the musical talent to amuse as well as serious slam.	5	Opt	1	No	No	Yes

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CMT-SP55MDED		£ 249.99
SD1M		£ 349.99
CMT-C5		£ 399.99
SD1MT		£ 449.99
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TEAC		
REF-100		£ 199.99
REF-300	ED	£ 399.99
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YAMAHA		
E-150		£ 199.99
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COMPACT DISCS

ARCAM		
ALPHA 7SE		£ 199.99
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C520		£ 69.99
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PD-F607		£ 99.99
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RCD951		£ 199.99
SONY		
CDP-XE220	ED	£ 39.99
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MXDD3		£ 149.99
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CDP-XA20ES		£ 299.99
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SL-PG390A	ED	£ 39.99
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SL-PG4		£ 69.99
SL-PS7		£ 69.99
SL-PG590A		£ 99.99
YAMAHA		
CDX-396		£ 69.99
CDX-496		P.O.A.
CDC-675		£ 99.99
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DENON		
CDR-1000		£ 249.99
CDRW1500		£ 449.99
LG		
ADR-620		£ 199.99
MARANTZ		
DR6000	ED	£ 299.99
PHILIPS		
CDR770		£ 129.99
CDR951		£ 149.99
PIONEER		
PDR-509		£ 149.99
PDR-609	ED	£ 169.99
PDR-W739		£ 169.99
PDR-W839		£ 249.99
YAMAHA		
CDR-S1000		£ 199.99
CDR-651	ED	£ 249.99

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DENON		
DMD-1000		£ 149.99
KENWOOD		
DMF-3020		£ 79.99
PIONEER		
MJD-508		£ 129.99
SHARP		
MD-SR50	GR	£ 59.99
MD-SR75	GR	£ 79.99
SONY		
MDS-JE330	ED	£ 79.99
MDS-JE440	ED	£ 89.99
MDS-JE640	ED	£ 119.99
MXD-D3		£ 149.99
MDS-JE770		P.O.A.
MDX-D40		£ 199.99
MDS-JA20ES		£ 199.99
MDS-JB940		P.O.A.
MDS-J3000ES		£ 299.99
MDS-JA50ES		£ 599.99
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FULL RANGE		P.O.A.
YAMAHA		
MDX596		£ 149.99

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ALBA		
DVD-103	ED	£ 99.99
DVD-104		P.O.A.
ARCAM		
DiVA DV88		£ 899.99
DENON		
DVD-1000		£ 249.99
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FERGUSON		
DVD400FE		£169.99
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DVP-250		£ 169.99
DVP-305		£ 179.99
DVP-505		£ 249.99
DVP-705		£ 269.99
KENWOOD		
DVF-3030	ED	£ 149.99
LG		
DVD-3200E	ED	£ 79.99
DVD-4950		£ 199.99
MARANTZ		
DV-3100SE		£ 199.99
DV-4000		£ 199.99
DV-4100SE		P.O.A.
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DVD-RV20	ED	£ 139.99
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DVD-RV60		P.O.A.
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DV-737M		P.O.A.
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DVD-709		£ 99.99
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SHARP		
DV-760		£ 79.99
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DVP-S335	ED	£ 149.99
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NS-DV55	ED	£ 399.99
SONY		
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YAMAHA		
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SPEAKERS

KEF Q55

"Their TERRIFIC SPREAD OF SOUND makes them a recommended audition, while a high 91db efficiency, plus 6 Ohms impedance, means they'll slip easily into a range of systems."

★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** Sep 97

150 Watts handling • Biwireable • Deluxe Black Ash Effect Finish

1/2 PRICE

£249.99 save £250 WAS ~~£499.99~~

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE105SE

"The 105SEs may be one of the most affordable designs in this group but they certainly don't look it: their sturdy cabinets are clothed in a classy real wood veneer and finished to a very high standard. Wired and fired, the AEs prove accomplished performers with an easygoing nature that makes for excellent long-term listenability."

★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** Aug 99

Superb floorstanders • 100 Watts handling • 8 Ohms • 89db Sensitivity • 25mm soft dome • 110mm polymer-pulp bass cone • Super Deluxe Dark Red Ash Finish

1/2 PRICE

£249.99 save £150 WAS ~~£399.99~~

ROGERS LS55

Superb quality Floorstanders

"Effortless open midrange... great imaging" **WHAT HI★FI?** Oct 96

Twin Base and Soft Dome Tweeter

125 Watts Handling - Black Finish

MEGA DEAL save £200

£299.99 WAS ~~£499.99~~

KEF CONCERTO 1

"In the Concerto One, a rear- ported bass reflex design with an awesomely competent HF capacity is complemented by a 'long throw' bass/midrange driver selected for it's exceptional (90dB) sensitivity and roll-off characteristics. Superlative Hi-Fi monitors for serious enthusiasts." KEF AUDIO Mar 00

Two Way Reflex Floorstander •100 Watts Handling • 8 Ohms Freq Res 48Hz-20KHz • Heavy Cast Plinth (1.1kg)* • Gold Bi-wire/Bi-amp • Superb Finish Black Ash Real Wood Veneer

850 x 180 x 250mm

1/2 PRICE

£299.99 save £300 WAS ~~£599.99~~

KEF Q65

"Strong imaging and PEPPY PERFORMANCE but you pay a hefty financial price at £800."

★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** May 98

175 Watts handling *Biwireable *Deluxe Black Ash Effect Finish

1/2 PRICE

£349.99 save £450 WAS ~~£799.99~~

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE505

"Housed in solid, slimline cabinets the AE505's are beautifully built and neatly finished. Indeed there's an air of class about them that few cheaper speakers manage. The smart ciecast plinth and sturdy gold-plated biwire terminals confirm the impression. These speakers have an unusually clear sound, that makes many rivals sound faintly hazy by comparison. Each note played is well defined; it's rare to find such precision at a price of £700." **WHAT HI★FI?** Jan 99. Need we say more?

Superbly engineered floorstanders • 100 Watts handling • 88 db sensitivity • 8 Ohms • 25mm silk dome tweeter • 130mm anodised alloy bass cone * Size 840 x 180 x 240 mm • Super Deluxe B Stock Black Ash real veneer finish

1/2 PRICE

£349.99 save £350

Also AE509B stock - Was £899.99 Save £400 Now £499.99

WAS ~~£699.99~~

KEF CONCERTO 2

"The 3-way Concerto Two takes this proven combination of superbly engineered components a step further, adding a second bass/midrange driver to create an even denser and richer sound picture. Whether your taste is for classical or avant garde, you'll find it's resulting musicality immensely involving." KEF AUDIO Mar 00

150 Watts Handling • Freq Res 45Hz-20KHz • Superb Finish Black Ash Real Wood Veneer • 950 x 180 x 250mm

1/2 PRICE

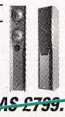
£399.99 save £400 WAS ~~£799.99~~

MISSION 775e

"The Mission 775e is the titan of the 77 series loudspeaker range. Big brother to the accomplished 774, its twin 170mm Aerogel bass/mid drivers provide astonishing clarity, coupled with giant killer bass and real world dynamics." Mission Oct 01

200 Watts Power Handling • 92db Sensitivity • 8 Ohms

38-20,000Hz Freq Res • Superb Black Ash or Rosewood Real Wood Veneer



1/2 PRICE

£399.99 save £400 WAS ~~£799.99~~

B&W DM605 S2

"The fastest, deepest, most potent bass you can buy. The DM605 S2 are the ideal speaker choice if you can't or won't fit a subwoofer into your living room. Home cinema enthusiasts will adore them, and the hi-fi lover with a yen for power should check them out too." ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Jan 00

"What More Can We Say? • 3-Way 6th Order Vented Box System With Active Bass • Internal 130 Watt Amplifier To Power 2 Bass Drivers • Midrange and Tweeter Driven Conventionally From System Amplifier • Optional Separate Line Input From A/V Processor • 200 Watts Power Handling • 8 Ohms • 91db Sens • Freq Res 23-30,000Hz • 26mm Metal Dome,180mm Kevlar Mid plus 2x180mm Kevlar Bass • Deluxe Black Ash Finish • 996x236x446mm

1/2 PRICE

£699.99 save £700 WAS ~~£1399.99~~

1/2 PRICE SYSTEM MEGADEALS

TEAC REF 100

"Great sounding and upgradeable – a maestro in the micro stakes, you'd be mad to miss it."

★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Jan 01

2 x 20 Watts Hi-Fi Output • Superb Single CD Player • AM/FM Digital Tuner • Superb Metal Build • Headphone Socket Full Remote

MEGA DEAL save £100

Supersave Ref 100 with MD Save £220 £329.99

£199.99

Also MD-H100 Mini Disc Save £100 £149.99

WAS ~~£299.99~~

TEAC AV-H500D/DV-H500

Superb Dolby Digital AV Amplifier and DVD System

5 x 50 Watts RMS Output • Subwoofer Out

5 Inputs • Heavy Binding Posts • H/Phone • DD 5.1 Output • Optical Digital Output • Analogue Audio Out • 2 Full Remotes

1/2 PRICE

save £430

£399.99

Optional Matching RDS Tuner & Dolby Cassette

WAS ~~£929.99~~

GRUNDIG PA3 SPACE FIDELITY

HYPERSPACE HI FI. Styled on Pluto, Grundig's £1000 futuristic system's room filling sound won't ever get lost in space. It has a personal presence, a bit like a robot from 1950s sci-fi. The PA3 turns out a really crisp driving sound with thumping bass. The dynamics are all there and the speakers are good enough to disappear, leaving you with a room full of music. ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Jan 98.

300 Watts Power Output • 7 CD Player

RDS PTY 3 Band Tuner

Dolby Tape • 2 Integrated Active Loudspeaker Systems

Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

save £500

£499.99

WAS ~~£999.99~~

1/2 PRICE SONY DIGITAL TV MEGADEAL

JVC RK-C329

Superb quality • Black ash finish

TV Video cabinet • Glass door

Fits most makes of 28" & 32" TV's & videos

1/4 PRICE

£29.99 save £90 WAS ~~£119.99~~

SHARP 56FW53H

24 Inch Nicam Widescreen CTV

Fastext- Double Page Picture and Text

Digital Comb Filter • Auto Sort Tuning

3xScart • S-VHS In • Front AV Socket

Full Remote

MEGA DEAL save £150

£249.99 Graded

Also 66FW53HGr 28 Widescreen Nicam £299.99

WAS ~~£399.99~~

THOMSON 24WT25US

"Product of the year What Video Magazine"

Black DIVA High definition tube

Auto Format (4x3 or Cinemascope)

Integrated DVD for Digital Quality Cinema

Virtual Dolby 40 Watts

Navilight Universal Remote

Program Info and Teletext

MEGA DEAL save £200

Also 28WT25US £599.99

32WT45US 100Hz £899.99

£399.99 Graded

WAS ~~£599.99~~

SONY KV-28DX20

WEGA Integrated Digital Terrestrial TV

66cm Screen • 50Hz Digital picture

PCMCIA input for pay channels module

Digital text compatible • Nicam • 3D Sound

Digital stereo sound • Analogue + Digital tuners

Multi Zoom • Optional C295 cabinet

Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

save £550

£549.99 Graded

WAS ~~£1099.99~~

SONY KV-32DX20

WEGA Integrated Digital Terrestrial TV

76cm Screen • 50Hz Digital picture

PCMCIA input for pay channels module

Digital text compatible • Nicam • 3D Sound

Digital stereo sound • Analogue + Digital tuners

Multi Zoom • Optional C295 cabinet

Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

save £750

£749.99 Graded

WAS ~~£1499.99~~

SONY KV-32DS60

WEGA Integrated Digital Terrestrial TV • 76cm Screen

100Hz Digital Plus• Digital text compatible

Digital stereo sound • Nicam

Dolby Pro Logic Surround Sound 50W RMS

Surround Speakers Included • Dual Drive Main Speakers

Analogue + Digital tuners • PCMCIA input for pay channels module • Multi Zoom

Optional C328 cabinet • Remote Control

MEGA DEAL save £1000

£999.99 Graded

WAS ~~£1999.99~~

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YAMAHA TX-396

MEGA DEAL

Typical superb Yamaha quality...
Good sensitivity and it's 3 waveband
40 station AM/LW/FM random access tuning
Auto memory • PLL tuning

save £40

£69.99 Ex display model

ALSO TX492 UNPRINTABLE

WAS ~~£109.99~~

JVC SP-EX70

1/3 PRICE

Superbly Finished Quality Speakers
Magnetically Shielded • 2 Way Bass
Reflex Design • 135mm Woofer
25mm Dome Tweeter * 50 Watts
Handling • 6 Ohms • Superb Satin
Finish • 180x290x265mm

£29.99

save £70

WAS ~~£99.99~~

KEF CRESTA 1

1/2 PRICE

"Superb speakers with excellent sound and as much a star product as their big brothers."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Apr 00
60 Watts Handling • 88db Sensitivity
8 Ohms • Black Finish

save £50

£49.99 Ex Display Model

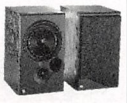
WAS ~~£99.99~~

SPEAKERS

KEF CODA 7

MEGA DEAL

Best Buy **WHAT HI★FI?** 95 awards...
"Still remarkable speakers at £129 & the best at the price for rock" ★★★★★
WHAT HI★FI? Mar 96
70Watts power handling. 91 DB sensitivity
Deluxe Black finish



£69.99

save £60

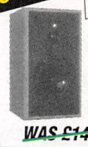
WAS ~~£129.99~~

KEF CRESTA 2

1/2 PRICE

"BEST BUY in the 1999 Awards. SUPERBLY MUSICAL and among the best at this £150 price" ★★★★★
WHAT HI★FI? Jan 01
90 Watts Handling • 90 db Sensitivity
8 Ohms • Biwirable
Deluxe Black Ash Finish

save £80



£69.99 Ex Display Model

WAS ~~£149.99~~

KEF CODA 8

1/2 PRICE

"An enthralling musical experience...punch, accurate timing, weighty bass with detailed treble and mid range" ★★★★★
WHAT HI★FI? Feb 96
100Watts handling 91 D.B. sensitivity
Deluxe black finish

£89.99

save £100

WAS ~~£189.99~~

MISSION 771

1/2 PRICE

"Magnificent low cost small room speakers and POTENTIAL CLASSICS in the making."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Aug 99
100 Watts Power Handling
85db Sensitivity • 8 Ohms
Superb Black Ash Real Wood Veneer

save £110

£89.99

ALSO CHERRY REAL WOOD VENEER £99.99

WAS ~~£199.99~~

WHARFEDALE ACTIVE DIAMOND

1/2 PRICE

"Compact and versatile, ideal solution for bed-sit hi-fi as it contains amp and speakers. The Multi-Media Speaker with real Hi-Fi Quality from Wharfedale."
★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Apr 99
2 Way Ported Speakers • 44 Watts Output • Freq Range 40-20,000Hz • Fully Shielded • Suitable For Most C.D./M.D./D.V.D./Walkman • Twin Phono Line Inputs
Deluxe Black Ash Finish • 295x190x175mm

£89.99

save £90

WAS ~~£179.99~~

KEF Q15

1/2 PRICE

Amazingly LUCID IMAGING allied to a clean, crisp tonal balance."
★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** Apr 97
Latest Uni Q Technology
100 Watts Power Handling
89 db Sensitivity • 6 Ohms
Biwirable • Deluxe Black Ash Finish

save £100

£99.99 Ex Display Model

WAS ~~£199.99~~

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE100

1/2 PRICE

"These are clearly very superior speakers built and have a seriously gorgeous sound.at this price of £200 they are too good to miss" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Oct 95
75Watts power handling • 89DB Sensitivity
Bi-wireable • Black Finish

Also 100iSE Black Ash Real Veneer £149.99

£99.99

save £100

WAS ~~£199.99~~

WHARFEDALE RB-23

1/2 PRICE

"Wharfedale's all new Rubiance speakers set new standards in the mid market sector of Hi-Fi Loudspeakers. The RB-23 is slightly larger than the average bookshelf speaker and so produces a healthy bass extension that improves the overall solidity of the music." Wharfedale International Jun 01
Superb 2 Way Design • 100 Watts Handling •8 Ohm • Die Cast Alloy Drive Unit Retainers •170mm Bass Woofer • 25mm Silk Dome Tweeter • 88db Sensitivity • Freq Res 45-20,000Hz
Deluxe Black/Rosewood, Pine or Cherry • 492x220x278mm

£99.99

save £100

WAS ~~£199.99~~

KEF CRESTA 3

1/2 PRICE

"Refinement and rhythm are the key attributes of these impressive speakers"
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Apr 00
100 Watts Handling
90 db Sensitivity • 8 Ohms
Biwirable • Deluxe Black Ash Finish

£99.99 Ex Display Model

save £150

WAS ~~£249.99~~

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AEGIS TWO

1/2 PRICE

"Extremely ENJOYABLE AND INFORMATIVE speakers, a must listen at this £250 price."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Apr 00
120 Watts Handling • 88.5 db Sensitivity
8 Ohms • Superb Floorstanders
Deluxe B Stock Black Ash Finish

Also AEGIS SUBWOOFER UNPRINTABLE

£119.99

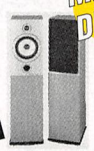
save £130

WAS ~~£249.99~~

WHARFEDALE DIAMOND 8.3

MEGA DEAL

" Superb floorstanders and they will suit a variety of systems, to boot."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Aug 01
90Watts Handling • 86db Sensitivity
6 Ohms • Deluxe Black Ash Effect Finish



£139.99

save £60

WAS ~~£199.99~~

WHARFEDALE RB-25

1/2 PRICE

"Having the same drive unit configuration as its smaller brother, this speaker provides deeper bass than the RB-23. The speakers are supplied with isolating plinths, and carpet spikes, designed to improve stability and dynamic attack by drastically reducing boom effects from the floor." Wharfedale International Jun 01
Superb 100 Watt Floorstander • Freq Res 42-20,000Hz
Heavy Isolating Plinths • Deluxe Black/Rosewood, Pine or Cherry • 884x270x278mm

£149.99

save £150

WAS ~~£299.99~~

KEF Q35

MEGA DEAL

"Highly recommended **WHAT HI★FI?** Awards. Wonderfully versatile with real sonic panache" ★★★★★
WHAT HI★FI? Aug 99
100Watts power handling
91 DB sensitivity. • Hurry limited stocks
Deluxe Black finish

save £150

£199.99

WAS ~~£349.99~~

WHARFEDALE RB-27

1/2 PRICE

"The RB-27 leads the range and performs accordingly. A dedicated bass driver, mass optimised for deep bass performance is added to the drive configuration. This combined with extra size, weight and a precision two level crossover network helps the RB-27 take it's rightful place at the front of the queue for musical ability." Wharfedale International Jun 01
Superb 150 Watt Floorstander * Freq Res 35-20,000Hz
Heavy Isolating Plinths * Deluxe Black/Rosewood, Pine or Cherry 946x270x328mm

£199.99

save £200

WAS ~~£399.99~~

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE120

1/2 PRICE

"Given room to breath the AE120's reward with full scale power and bags of emotion" ★★★★★ Review
WHAT HI★FI? Sep 97
150Watts handling • 89DB Sensitivity
Bi-wireable Deluxe Rosewood Finish

£199.99

save £300

WAS ~~£499.99~~

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Portable Mini Disc Recorder • 22.9mm Slimline
Uses Single AA Battery • 10 Sec Anti Shock
6 Hours Playback

1/2 PRICE

save £110

£59.99

Also MD-SR75Gr Rechargeable Ni-MH Batt Remote Jog Control X Bass £79.99

WAS ~~£163.99~~

SONY MDS-JE530

"The Sony MDS-JE530 excels"
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Oct 99
20 bit bitstream • Full edit functions
Optical digital/Analogue input
Full remote control

save £130

1/2 PRICE

£69.99

Also MDS-JE440/MDS-JE640 UNPRINTABLE

WAS ~~£199.99~~

SONY MDS-M100

"Latest model full remote control MiniDisc" with superb range of features
20 bit accurate wide bitstream • Sampling rate convertor 32/44, 1/48 Khz digi rec, time machine rec (6 secs) • Full edit features (divide/combine/move/a-b erase/erase all/smart space/auto cut & undo)
Double time record • Time standby • Optical digital/Analogue input • Full remote control

save £100

1/2 PRICE

£99.99

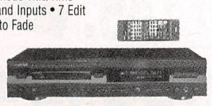
WAS ~~£199.99~~

YAMAHA MDX-596

"Typical Mini Disc quality with Yamaha natural sound tuning... Smooth but nicely detailed... Lack of facia clutter... Aggressive pricing.. It sets it's self apart from the other budget machines out there" ★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** Nov 00
20 Bit A/D and D/A Conversion • 4 Mode Title/Time Display • Line and Optical Outputs and Inputs • 7 Edit Functions • Syncro Rec • Digital Auto Fade

save £80

MEGA DEAL



£149.99

SONY MDS-JB930

"PRODUCT OF THE YEAR in the 1999 Awards. CRACKING machine – both for playing and recording."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Sep 99
Bitstream A/D and D/A Conversion • Coax Line and Optical Outputs and Inputs
Remote Control

save £150

1/2 PRICE

£149.99

WAS ~~£299.99~~

TEAC MD-8

"Solidity of build: purposeful styling, this TEAC recorder looks the absolute business" **WHAT HI★FI?** Nov 98
Top Of The Range VRDS style Professional Mini Disc Recorder
Multi Function Jog Dial • Auto Or Manual Track Marking
Auto Search • Coax Digital Out • TOS-link Optical In/Out
Analogue In/Out • H/Phone Out • Full Remote

1/3 PRICE

£199.99

save £400

WAS ~~£599.99~~

CASSETTES

SONY TCT-X373

Single Full Logic Cassette Deck
Full Auto Reverse • Dolby B Noise Reduction • Auto Loading Mechanism
Superb Build Quality

save £110

1/3 PRICE

£39.99

ALSO TCT-X595 £69.99

WAS ~~£149.99~~

KENWOOD XW-320

Superb Built Twin Tape Deck
Full Logic • Double Reverse
Dolby B/C & HX Pro • DPSS
CCRS For CD To Tape Dubbing
One Touch Edit

save £120

1/2 PRICE

£79.99

WAS ~~£199.99~~

YAMAHA KX-393

"Best Buy 1999 **WHAT HI★FI?** awards... easy touse and produces excellent results" ★★★★★
WHAT HI★FI? Sep 99
Twin head • Dolby B+C+ HxPro
Headphone socket
Auto calibration • Fine bias adjust

save £40

MEGA DEAL

£89.99 Ex display model

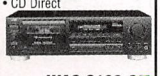
WAS ~~£129.99~~

CASSETTES/CDR

JVC TD-R472

"The feature that will attract most people to this deck is the powered loading door, auto reverse is handy and gives the TD-R472 an important advantage over the Yamaha KX-493 while Dolby B, C and HX Pro are also included. The overall presentation is nicely balanced too, with no part of the frequency range unduly emphasised" **WHAT HI★FI?** Apr 99 "BEST BUY" Hi Fi CHOICE
Music Scan • Bias Control • Auto Tape Select • CD Direct Input • Servo Direct Drive Motor

1/2 PRICE



£99.99

save £100

WAS ~~£199.99~~

YAMAHA KXW-321

Superbly engineered twin tape version of highly reviewed Yamaha KX393
Double auto reverse
High speed dubbing • Relay play
Dolby digital B & C
Digital counter both decks
Yamaha super GF heads
Syncro rec

save £40

MEGA DEAL

£129.99

WAS ~~£169.99~~

PIONEER PDR-W839

This machine is quite outstanding it is a combination of a triple Multi C.D. player and C.D.R similar to the PDR609
Eisa 2000 Award Winner ★★★★★ Home Entertainment
NEED WE SAY MORE? CDR & CDRW compatible • 3 & 1 relay play • Text editing • Double speed dubbing (one touch) • Program record from 3 CDs Digital recording level • Advanced features from PDR-609:- sample rate converter with 44.1 KHZ by pass mode, digital rec level with digital fader, multi-track erase and TOC erase with RW discs

MEGA DEAL

£249.99

save £150

WAS ~~£399.99~~

COMPACT DISCS

TECHNICS SL-PG490A

"Best buy in 1999 **WHAT HI★FI?** Awards...A fine player, well built and neatly finished" ★★★★★
WHAT HI★FI? Apr 00
Bitstream mash dac
Headphone socket
Remote control

save £££'s

MEGA DEAL

£49.99 Ex Display Model

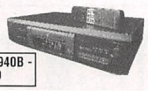
Also SLPG590A £99.99

SONY CDP-XE330

"Cracking little player with smooth, weighty and musical presentation... A bargain at £100"
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Apr 00
Superbly engineered quality CD player
Display model with remote control
Hurry limited stock 24 track programme

save £££'s

MEGA DEAL



£49.99 Ex Display Model

Also SCD-XB940B - £199.99

YAMAHA CDX-396

"The latest CD Player from Yamaha may bear an entry level £130 price tag but it doesn't look look a budget machine.. A big smooth friendly sound" ★★★★☆
WHAT HI★FI? Sep 00
CD-R disc play • Digital servo system
Optical digital out • Syncro start • Slimline black
40 track prog • Full remote control

save £110

1/2 PRICE

£69.99

WAS ~~£179.99~~

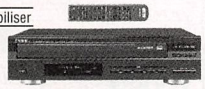
COMPACT DISCS/DAC

YAMAHA CDC-575

Superbly engineered multi player with a sound quality to match...A stunning player
Disc intro scan • Optical digital out
3 mode CD text display
Silent CD changer with disc stabiliser
Digital servo system

save £100

1/2 PRICE



£99.99

WAS ~~£199.99~~

NAD C540

"This is a very fine player for the money... using a 24 bit Burr-Brown Delta Sigma DAC as used in the Arcam 7SE... The NAD is one of the best at it's price" ★★★★★
WHAT HI★FI? Sep 00
Typical NAD minamist quality
Coaxial digital output • Full remote control

save £200

1/2 PRICE

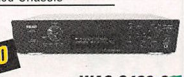
£149.99

WAS ~~£349.99~~

TEAC D-T1

"Pricey at £500, but proves concept of separate DAC and transport as a FAST TRACK to hi-fi heaven."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Jun 96
Bitstream Double Differential DAC
18 Bit 8x Oversampling • 2x Coax + 2x Optical Inputs
2x Analogue Outputs • Copper Plated Chassis
Superb Build

1/5 PRICE



£99.99

save £400

WAS ~~£499.99~~

HURRY ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

Call Hyperfi Hotline now on 020 8591 6961 and pick up a Hi-Fi Bargain

HALF PRICE A/V DEALS DEALS DEALS

ELTAX EA-SW20

"Latest Dolby Digital compatible Super Bass Powered Sub with superbly elegant looks."
60 Watts Power Output • 200 mm Downloading Super Woofer • Subwoofer Volume Level Control • Phase Sound Adjust Control • Low Pass Frequency Control • RCA Line Input Jack • Frequency Response 45-250Hz • Cross over Frequency Adjustable 50-250Hz • Superb Deluxe Satin Silver Finish • 300x300x300mm

1/2 PRICE

£79.99 save £80 WAS £159.99

CELESTION CSC

Superbly engineered with powerfully focused sonic ability • Dual 90mm Super Woofers • Super Soft Dome Tweeter • Freq Res 88-20,000Hz 89db Sensitivity • 75Watts Handling • Magnetically Shielded • Super Deluxe Video Grey Finish

1/2 PRICE

£99.99 save £100 WAS £199.99

CELESTION D1i DIPOLE

"With two 10mm tweeters paired with two 110mm bass drivers and angled apart, the D1i surround/effect speaker creates a superbly diffuse soundfield for the enjoyment of atmospheric effects with the latest three dimensional viewing formats."
Freq Res 80Hz-20kHz • 75 Watts handling Sensitivity 87db • 8 Ohm • Deluxe Black Ash Finish

save £200 1/3 PRICE

£99.99 Ex display model WAS £299.99

WHARFEDALE RUBIANCE CENTRE

" With more and more people discovering the pleasures of formats such as DVD, the potential for creating ever more impressive multi channel sound systems continues to grow. The Rubiance centre is a perfect partner to any main speaker." Wharfedale International Aug 01
Full Magnetic Shielding • Ultra Strong Die Cast Drive Units Dual 125mm Bass Woofers • 25mm Silk Dome Tweeter 100 Watts Handling • 8 Ohm • 89db Sensitivity • Superb Black/Rosewood, Cherry or Pine Finish • 175x526x170mm

1/2 PRICE

£99.99 save £100 WAS £199.99

KENWOOD SW-305

"At £179 Kenwood's SW-305 is VERY IMPRESSIVE, and at this price point it's pretty special."
★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Awards 01
100 Watts power output powered subwoofer • Class AB amplifier • 200mm Sub driver • RCA/Line input • Phase control • Variable cut off frequency 60-200Hz • Bypass cut off frequency circuit for filtered sound • Auto on/off Deluxe black finish

MEGA DEAL

£129.99 save £50 WAS £179.99

B&W CC6 S2

"Benchmark home theatre performance at a blisteringly good price. Great sound and exceptionally good value at £230." Home Theatre Jan 01
"Editor's Choice...A solid and credible performer." Home Entertainment Jun 00
2.5 Way Shielded Centre Speaker • 120 Watts Handling Dual 120 mm Kevlar Woofers • 26mm Metal Dome Tweeter • 8 Ohms • Freq Res 78-20,000Hz • 89db Sens • Black Ash Finish • 151x450x275mm

MEGA DEAL

£149.99 save £80 WAS £229.99

1/2 PRICE A/V SPEAKER PACKAGES

PIONEER CINEMA 33

A Superb 6 Speaker Cinema Package at a ridiculously low price • 1x SP33C Compact Centre Speaker • 4x SP33 30 Watt Surround Speakers • 85mm Woofer • Shelf Or Wall Mount • 1x Eltax EA-SW20 60 Watts Power Subwoofer • Subwoofer Volume Control Suitable For Most A/V Set-ups

1/3 PRICE

£99.99 save £280 WAS £379.99

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE101/5

"The new AE101 speakers are full range speakers in their own right... They present all the signals handed to the system in a clear and accurate manner" ★★★★★ Home Entertainment Awards Winner Nov 98
5 x100Watts power handling • Sensitivity 89 DB Magnetically shielded • Gold plated terminals Deluxe black finish

1/2 PRICE

£149.99 for all 5 speakers save £200 WAS £349.99

MISSION CINEMA 70

"Product of the year winner 2000. Outstanding for both movies and music" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Jul 00
Full Magnetic Shielding • Dual 125mm Bass Woofers 25mm Silk Dome Tweeter • 8 Ohm 75 Watts Handling • 90db Sensitivity • Black Ash Finish

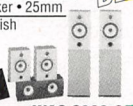
MEGA DEAL

£249.99 Also Cinema 7 £399.99 save £230 WAS £479.99

WHARFEDALE DIAMOND CINEMA

"Refined presentation; sweet treble; solid bass. Fantastic sounds and looks like it should cost lots more."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Nov 01
100Watts Handling • Shielded Centre Speaker • 25mm Dome Tweeter • 86db Sens • Mahogany Finish

MEGA DEAL



£269.99 save £130 WAS £399.99

ACOUSTIC ENERGY CINEMA 1200

Superb 5 speaker combination • 2 x AE120 fronts 150Watts handling ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Sep 97 Home Entertainment Award Winner Nov 98
AE101 shielded centre 100Watts handling 2 x AE101 effects shielded 100Watts handling Super deluxe black ash finish
Also Cinema 1500SE £399.99

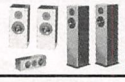
1/2 PRICE

£299.99 FOR ALL FIVE SPEAKERS save £400 WAS £699.99

WHARFEDALE RB-25A/V

"Wharfedale are almost unique in that they make and design virtually every component in-house. Every model in the range features ultra-strong die cast alloy drive units." Wharfedale International Aug 01
Superb 5 Piece A/V Speaker Package • 1x RB- Centre 100 Watt Shielded • 2x RB-23 Superb 100 Watt Rear Channel Speakers • 2x RB-25 Quality Floorstanding 100 Watt Front Speakers • Deluxe Black/Rosewood, Pine or Cherry Finish

1/2 PRICE



£349.99 Matching Power Subs Available save £350 WAS £699.99

KEF CINEMA 20 A/V

"The KEF 20B is a PACEY, AGGRESSIVE, TAUT cube of beastliness which is compact and easy to hide."
★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Aug 97
Superb 6 Piece Full A/V Speaker Package 1x 80C Centre • 4x 60S Front/Surround Speakers • 1x 20B Power Subwoofer

1/2 PRICE

£399.99 save £400 WAS £799.99

MISSION CINEMA 7SE

Superb top of the range Mission A/V Speaker Package • 2 x 775e 200 Watt Super Bass Fronts • 2 x 771 • "Potential Classics" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Aug 99 100 Watt Rears • 77c Superb Centre Speaker

1/2 PRICE

£599.99 save £600 WAS £1199.99

B&W 605/CC6/303

"The fastest, deepest, most potent bass you can buy. The DM605 S2 are the ideal speaker choice if you can't or won't fit a subwoofer into your living room. Home cinema enthusiasts will adore them."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Jan 00
Superb 5 Piece Total A/V Package with built in Subwoofers 2x DM605-S2 200Watt Front Speakers with Built in Powered Subwoofers • 2x DM303 100Watts Rears • 1x CC6-S2 Superb Shielded Centre • Super Deluxe Black Ash Finish

MEGA DEAL

£999.99 save £860 WAS £1859.99

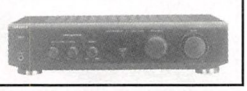
1/2 PRICE HI FI MEGADEALS

AMPLIFIERS

SONY TA-FE230E

"Bargain price for an amp that's so well built; sounds OK, too..." ★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** Dec 99
2 x 55 Watts output
5 Audio inputs • Tone and Balance control
Loudness function

MEGA DEAL



£59.99 Ex display model save £££'s

KENWOOD KA-F1030

"Solid piece of kit for the money... Detailed and punchy sound... impressive detail and dynamics...Good build and design... A truly excellent buy" ★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** Sep 00
2 x60Watts output • 3 inputs plus M.M.
Twin speaker outputs • Tone controls
Headphone socket

MEGA DEAL

£69.99 Ex display model save £££'s
Also KA3030ED £99.99

ROTEL RA-921

" BEST BUY in the 1999 Awards. The RA-921 offers a fast, articulate and thrilling sound."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Feb 99
2 x 25 Watts output
4 Audio inputs
Tone and Balance controls
Headphone socket

1/2 PRICE

£69.99 Ex display model save £70
Also RA-931 Mk 11 ED £99.99 WAS £139.99

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HALF PRICE A/V DEALS DEALS DEALS

YAMAHA RX-V800RDS

"Next model up from the award winning Yamaha RX-V620RDS."
5 x 100 Watts Output • 5 x 230 Watts Dynamic Power. • DD • DTS • DTS ES
Matrix 6.1 • Subwoofer Out Terminals
39 Surround Programs 28DSP & 6 Hi Fi DSP • Learning Remote
40 station RDS Tuner

MEGA DEAL
save £250

£399.99
WAS £649.99

KENWOOD KRF-V7773D

"This is a potent sounding receiver ; it has ample energy and scale, and can really muscle it's way through even the most demanding of surround soundtracks. Terrific all round performance; easy to use and very well equipped" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** OCT 00
5 x 120 W • Dolby Digital • DPL • DTS • MPEG 5.1 • 6 Ch input
AM/FM PLL RDS tuner • 40 presets • 5 Aud 5 Vid 5 Dig inputs
3 Vid 2 Dig outputs • Pre outs all channels • Front AV / S-VHS
4mm Sp term • HP soc • Ali front • Two way remote for DVD/Video/Cable/Sat/CDR + LCD display

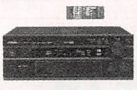
1/2 PRICE

£399.99
save £400
WAS £799.99

YAMAHA RX-V1000RDS

"Superb 5.1 audio, good in stereo and can be upgraded – undone solely on the £800 price."★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** May01
DD • DTS • DTS ES • Matrix 6.1 • Component Video • AM/FM RDS Tuner • 41 Surround Modes • Quad Field CINEMA DSP for 6.1 Channel Digital Surround • Custom Installation Capability (RS-232C Interface) Direct Access Multi Learning Remote

MEGA DEAL
save £300



£499.99
WAS £799.99

1/2 PRICE KEF A/V SPEAKER DEALS

KEF MODEL 80C

"Highly received in the 98 awards, perfect subtlety over raw power" ★★★★☆
WHAT HI★FI? Aug 97
75Watts handing • Dual 130mm bass
25mm soft dome tweeter
Deluxe black ash

MEGA DEAL
save £60

£69.99
Also Kef Coda Centre £119.99
Also Q95c £149.99
WAS £129.99

KEF MODEL 60S

"KEF's Uni-Q system makes the 60s an exciting prospect... They're smooth performances able to deliver accurate detailed effects... very very neat"
★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** Aug 97
45Watts • • 4 ohm • 89 DB sensitivity
Grey finish

1/2 PRICE
save £130

£69.99
Matching designer stands 1/2 price
WAS £139.99

KEF MODEL 55S

"The KEF Model 55s delivers excellent front or rear effects performance for its size"
Superb Quality Front/Surround Speakers
2 Way 2 Speaker infinite baffle Sensitivity 88db • 50Watts • 6 Ohms
Unique bracket for easy shelf or wall mount
Deluxe Video Grey Finish

MEGA DEAL
save £££'s

£99.99
WAS £199.99

KEF MODEL 20B

" You'd be surprised at how many times we hear people say: 'I'd love a subwoofer, but there's just no way I can fit one in – they're too big, ugly and too boxy. The KEF Model 20B is different. It's PACEY, AGGRESSIVE, TAUT little cube of beastliness which is compact and easy to hide."
★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Aug 97
Baby brother to the 5 Star KEF Model 30B • 70 Watts Output • Line/Speaker Input • 250mm Base Driver

MEGA DEAL
save £150

£199.99
WAS £349.99

KEF MODEL 30B

"The 30B has better low down command than any other subwoofer tested including the REL... It's fast hitting and dynamic... Yet slow it down and it still pleases"
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Jan 96
100Watts output • Line/Speaker input
Deluxe stylish black finish

MEGA DEAL
save £200

£299.99
WAS £499.95

DALI SWA.12

"The Dali suite system with the SWA12 offers cohesive presentation with movies and good performance with music... Fine value"
★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** Aug 00
Superb active subwoofer with bass thumping 12" unit
160Watts power hand output
89 DB sensitivity • Real veneer black finish
Also Suite Centre ~~£299.99~~ £149.99
Suite Surround ~~£299.99~~ £149.99
6 Piece Package 1x Cen 4x Surr 1x Sub
~~£1499.99~~ £699.99

1/2 PRICE
save £350

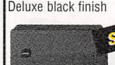
£249.99
WAS £699.99 SWA.12 Subwoofer Only

1/4 PRICE A/V SPEAKER DEALS

PIONEER SP33C/SP33

SP33C Superb compact centre speaker
Full magnetic shielding
Suitable for dolby pro logic
Deluxe black finish

1/6 PRICE
save £50



£9.99
WAS £59.99

SP33 Surround sound speakers
8.5cm full range woofer
30Watts power handling
Shelf or wall mount
Deluxe black finish

1/4 PRICE
save £60

£19.99
WAS £79.99

SUPERSAVE COMBO SP33C/SP33 £24.99 FOR ALL THREE SPEAKERS

CELESTION CC1

Typical Celestion quality with focused sonic ability • Dual 80mm Woofers
22mm Tweeter • 70 Watts Handling
Freq Res 91-20,000Hz
Black Finish • 435x100x230mm

1/4 PRICE
save £120

£29.99
WAS £149.99

WHARFEDALE VALDUS CENTRE

"The Valdus centre earns our wholehearted recommendation at such a bargain price of £100." ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Jun 96
Dual 90mm Woofers • Dome Tweeter
75 Watts Handling • Freq Res 90-20,000Hz
Deluxe Black Finish • 430x150x168mm

MEGA DEAL
save £60

£39.99
WAS £99.95

KEF CRESTA CENTRE

Part of the highly reviewed Cresta range
Dual 80mm Woofers • 22mm Tweeter
70 Watts Handling • Freq Res 91-20,000Hz
Black Finish • 435x100x230mm

1/2 PRICE
save £50

£49.99 Ex display model
WAS £99.99

CELESTION LITTLE 1

"The Celestion's add more than there fair share of sound to the movie excitement." ★★★★☆
WHAT HI★FI? Feb 96
50Watts handling • 88mm bass driver
10mm super tweeter • 90DB sensitivity
80mm • Freq res 100Hz - 20KHz • White finish

1/2 PRICE
save £50

£49.99
Matching designer stands 1/2 price
WAS £99.99

TECHNICS SB-CSS140

Superb Quality 3 Speaker AV Kit
100 Watt Shielded Centre Speaker
2x Shielded Surround Speakers 100 Watts

1/3 PRICE
save £110

£49.99
FOR ALL THREE
WAS £159.99

CELESTION CSW

Superb Active Subwoofer • 60 Watts Output • 200mm Woofer • Volume Level Control • Phase Sound Level Control • Freq Res 45-250Hz
Deluxe Grey Finish • 300x300x300mm

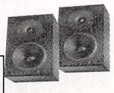
1/4 PRICE
save £150

£49.99
WAS £199.99

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE101/2

"The new AE101 satellite speakers are full range speakers in their own right... They present all the signals handed to the system in a clear and accurate manner" ★★★★★ Home Entertainment Awards Winner Nov 98
Superb quality effect speakers
100Watts power handling

1/2 PRICE
save £80



£59.99
ALSO AE101/3 AS ABOVE WITH CENTRE AE101 £99.99
WAS £139.99

B&W CC3

"A centre speaker that gives excellent sound. It's well priced at £150, detailed and punchy."
★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Nov 96
Dual 90mm Woofers • Dome Tweeter
75 Watts Power Handling • Freq Res 90-20,000Hz
Deluxe Black Finish • 130x400x210mm

1/2 PRICE
save £80

£69.99
WAS £149.95

HURRY ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

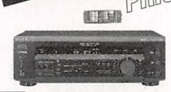
Call Hyperfi Hotline now on 020 8591 6961 and pick up a Hi-Fi Bargain

HALF PRICE SONY A/V MEGA DEALS

SONY STR-DE235

Dolby Prologic AV Receiver
5x50 Watts output
5.1 channel input
Digital Cinema Sound
Subwoofer out
Remote Control

save £120 — 1/2 PRICE



£79.99

Also STR-DE245 £119.99

~~WAS £199.99~~

SONY DVP-S335

"Delightful player to live with. STRONG SOUND whether with music or movies." ★★★★ Review DVD3
10 Bit Video DAC • 24 Bit Audio DAC
DTS Stream output • On Screen Menu
CD,DVD Text • Parental Control
Remote Control

save £150 — 1/2 PRICE

£149.99 Ex display model

Also DVP-S336 UNPRINTABLE

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SONY STR-DA50ESN

Superbly engineered ES quality model up from the Award Winning STR-D930
Stereo 2 x 120watts • Coax Input • DTS
Surround 5 x 120watts • Dolby pro logic
Optical digital 4 Inputs 1 Output
Dolby Digital • 5.1 Input • 30 DSP modes
Cinema Studio modes A/B/C
RDS EON Tuner• Touch panel remote

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Also STR-V555ED £449.99

£399.99

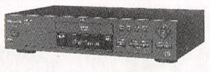
~~WAS £999.99~~

HALF PRICE DVD MEGA DEALS

WHARFDALE DVD750

"This really is a fabulous Home Cinema bargain and its pretty good as CD Player too" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** May 00
Superb budget priced DVD Player
Multi Region switchable

save £100 — 1/2 PRICE



£79.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £179.99~~

ALBA DVD-103

"Does everything you could reasonably expect, and it costs just £150. And THAT'S SENSATIONAL." ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Oct 00
Dolby digital 5.1 & DTS 5.1 • CD & CDR replay • Multi region
RGB • Scart • S VideoCoax/optical outputs • 2 analogue

save £££s — MEGA DEAL

£99.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £199.99~~

SONY DVP-S535

Super slimline latest model
Dolby digital decoder
Coaxial and optical digital outputs
50 disc playback memory
Remote control • Deluxe black finish

save £170 — MEGA DEAL

Also DVP-S536 unprintable

£199.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £369.99~~

HALF PRICE A/V SUPERDEALS

LG N209

"Straightforward, simple operation is guaranteed with the N209. It has an advanced Icon on screen display to control the most popular functions, and the self diagnostic system will pinpoint any potential problems."
2 head mono video • Twin Speed • NTSC Playback
16 x 9 Widescreen Recording • Child Lock
7 Event 1 Month Programmable • Full Remote Control

1/2 PRICE
save £60

£59.99

Also LG N969 Nicam £79.99

~~WAS £119.99~~

GRUNDIG M100

Superbly built 5 Channel AV Amplifier
Dolby Pro Logic • 2x 55Watts Front
1x 55Watts Centre • 2x 30 Watts Rear
6 Inputs • Phono Input • Full Remote Control

save £220 — 1/3 PRICE

£79.99

~~WAS £299.99~~

AIWA HV-FX8200

Nicam Stereo Video * 6 Head
NTSC Playback • Auto Tune
Ad Skip • One Touch Rec & Play
7 Event Prog • 80 Chan Mem
Twin Scart • Remote Control

save £80 — 1/2 PRICE

£79.99

Also HV-FX5850 6Hd Nicam £119.99

~~WAS £159.99~~

SONY SLV-SE700

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Smart Link • VPS/PDC
Remote Control

save £150 — 1/2 PRICE

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~~WAS £249.99~~

JVC HR-J680

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MEGA DEAL

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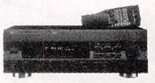
YAMAHA RX-V396RDS

"Superbly engineered and wonderful sonically, a super Dolby Digital Receiver." Home Entertainment Aug 01
Dolby Digital * 6 Channel DTS Input
40 Station RDS EON Tuner • 5 x 60 Watts
Sub Out • 2 Optical 1 Coax Outputs
Preset Remote Control

save £100 — MEGA DEAL



£149.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £249.99~~

PIONEER VSX-609RDS

"Great buy because it gets you into digital surround sound for such a modest outlay. In effect, it's the same product as the £300 VSX-709RDS, stripped of a few of the niceties. The Pioneer blazes a trail for budget DTS decoding" **WHAT HI★FI?** Sep 00
Dolby Digital & DTS • 5 x 80 Watts output • 4 x Audio 3 x Video inputs • 10 DSP modes • Subwoofer output

MEGA DEAL

£149.99

save £100

~~WAS £249.99~~

PIONEER DV-636D

"Belting player, combining an excellent spec with fab performance." ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Dec 00
Superb DVD Video Player • Built In Decoder
RGB Out Twin Scart • CD-R Replay Coax/Optical Out
Remote Control

MEGA DEAL

£249.99 Ex display model

save £150

~~WAS £399.99~~

YAMAHA DSP-AX620

"Well made, easy to use and sounds great – what more could you want?" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Sep 01
5 x 90 Watts output • Dolby Digital • DTS
6 Channel Input • 5 x Video Inputs
4 x Digital Inputs • Full Remote Control

save £110 — MEGA DEAL

£289.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £399.99~~

DENON AVR-1602

"Denon's bargain surround star. Fine blend of features; strong performance in every area." ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Nov 01
Dolby Pro Logic 11 • 70 Watts Output
Dolby Digital • DTS 5.1 • 40 Preset RDS
6 Channel Input • Remote Control

MEGA DEAL
save £50

£299.99

Also AVR-1802 £349.99

~~WAS £349.99~~

YAMAHA RX-V620RDS

"'Bargain priced and does everything extremely well. This is a very impressive product." ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Sep 01
5 x 90 Watts Output • Dolby Digital • DTS
6 Channel Input • 5 x Video Inputs • 4 x Digital Inputs • RDS AM/FM Tuner • Full Remote Control

save £110 — MEGA DEAL

£339.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £449.99~~

PIONEER DV-737

"Still one of the best. First rate DVD performer." ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Sep 01
Top Of The Range DVD/CD Player
VCD Playback • CD-R/RW Playback
Component Video Outputs With Progressive Scan • Full Remote Control

MEGA DEAL

£399.99 Ex display model

save £300

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1/4 PRICE ARCAM A/V SUPERDEAL

Arcam Xeta 2 ~~WAS £643.99~~

"Deep, BROAD SOUND; warm; a little pricey at £650." **WHAT HI★FI?** VTV3

Full Dolby Pro Logic Surround Processor
3 x 50 Watt Power amplifiers • 4 x Line Audio Inputs
4 x Composite Video Inputs • 2 x DSP Modes
Broadcast Quality Video Switching • On Screen Graphics
Infra Red Remote Control

1/4 PRICE save £550

£99.99

Arcam AVR100 ~~WAS £799.99~~

"What sets the AVR100 apart from the rest of the pack is it's UK design and the intention from the off to create a product as good with music as movies." ★★★★☆ **WHAT HI★FI?** May01

Dolby Digital • DTS • 5 x 70 Watts Output • 5.1 Channel
Discrete Input • On Screen Display • 7 Inputs • Full RemoteControl • For Personal Collection

1/2 PRICE save £400

£399.99 Ex display model

SONY ★★★★★ WHAT HI★FI? MINI DISC

Sony MDS-JB940

"Best buy in the 2000 Awards. Makes great recordings and its fine on playback too" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Oct 00

QS class M.D. recording deck • Aluminium front panel
24 bit d/a convertor with new digital filter
Type R Atrac • Coax/optical/line inputs & outputs
Remote control
Deluxe black finish

MEGA DEAL

save £££'s

£169.99 Ex display model

SONY ★★★★★ WHAT HI★FI? A/V MEGA DEAL

Sony STR-DB940

"Best buy in the 2000 Awards... Exceptional surround performance for the price" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Oct 00

QS range dolby digital receiver • 5 x 110Watts
Aluminium front panel • DTS decoder • Full digital cinema sound
2 audio/video (with video S) • 2nd audio out for multi room
1 coax & 3 optical digital output • Virtual multi dimension
2 way LCD remote control with on screen
Deluxe black finish

save £200

MEGA DEAL

~~WAS £499.99~~ £299.99 Ex display model

1/2 PRICE YAMAHA ★★★★★ WHAT HI★FI?

YAMAHA DSP-AX2 ~~WAS £1299.99~~

Superb Yamaha Build AV Amplifier
7 Channel output • 5 x 100 Watts RMS Mains, Centre + Rears • 2 x 25 Watts RMS Front Effects
36 DSP Modes • Dolby Digital and DTS • 6 Channel external decoder input • Learning Remote

1/2 PRICE save £800

£499.99 Ex display model

YAMAHA DSP-AX1 ~~WAS £1999.99~~

"Best Buy 2000 Awards more energy and outright thrills than all the rivals" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Sep 00

5 x 110Watts • 54 DSP modes • 5 audio 8 video inputs
Subout • Full remote control • Deluxe black finish

1/2 PRICE save £1200

£799.99 Ex display model

WHARFDALE/JVC/PIONEER COMPLETE DVD SYSTEM

A complete dolby pro logic DVD 5 speaker Home Cinema system for under £200... Wow

Wharfdale DVD 750

★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** May 00
Deluxe grey finish • Remote control

JVC - RX5TH

Dolby pro logic A/V Receiver
3 x 50Watts front,2 x 25Watts rear
Multi colour on screen display
RDS tuner with EON

PIONEER SP33

5 x 8.5cm full range woofers • 5 x 30Watts power handling
Deluxe black finish • Shelf or wall mount

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JVC STAR RATED WHAT HI★FI? 1/4 PRICE

RX-774R

"The RX-774R may only offer dolby pro-logic decoding, but it comes laden with gizmos... including a sound effect amplifier, 3-D phonics, subwoofer output, 5.1 Input and a 40 preset RDS Tuner" **WHAT HI★FI?** June 99

5 x 70watts Dolby pro-logic • 2 x 100watts Hi-fi stereo • 5.1 Input
3 Audio 3 Video Inputs
S VHS In/Out • Text Compu link
Multi colour on screen display
Binding posts • Multi brand remote

1/4 PRICE

~~WAS £433.99~~ save £350 £79.99

RX-5000R

"Latest model from JVC boasting 5 x 100watts output, superb sound and the latest technology."
Dolby Surround Pro Logic • 5.1 Channel Input and 5 Separate Amps • 3D Phonic • DPL in Full Digital Processing • Digital Acoustics Processor with 4 Preset Soundfields
3 Band RDS Tuner with EON • 5 Audio Inputs
Sub Output • Full A/V Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

~~WAS £299.99~~ save £150 £149.99

RX-6001R

"The latest Dolby Digital A/V Control Centre from JVC not only looks simply stunning in a deluxe Champagne Gold finish, but also sounds superb."
5 x 100Watts Output • Dolby Digital/DTS/MPEG Multichannel Decoders • Dot Matrix Fluorescent Display • Assignable Coax and Optical Inputs
S Video In/Out • 3 Video 3 Audio Inputs • Sub Out • Bass Boost • RDS/EON Tuner with 45 Presets
Full A/V Remote Commander

1/2 PRICE

~~WAS £399.99~~ save £200 £199.99

KEF ★★★★★ SYSTEM

A/V Speaker Package

KEF model 60S x 4/80C/30B

"This KEF package is chic, easy to use and cute... Excellent integration... at £1026 it's supremely well balanced compact and highly recommended" ★★★★★ **WHAT HI★FI?** Jan 96
What more can we say?

1/2 PRICE

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Product	£	Verdict	We said...	Type	Power	Line Level Inputs	Phonostage	Tape Loops	Speakers	Tone Controls	Headphones	Remote
				The facts								
Magnum IA200SE	735	★★★★☆ Jun 98	Good amp with a sweet, clean sound, but it can get flustered at high volume levels.	A	105	4	Opt	1	2	No	Yes	Yes
Magnum IA 200	750	★★★★☆ Dec 96	Simple and powerful with plenty of grunt but the facilities are basic for the price.	A	105	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Marantz PM8200	600	★★★★★ Oct 01	Great all-rounder - fully featured with fine sonics. A recommended buy.	A	60	3	mm	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM-17MkII KI-Sig	1500	★★★★★ Nov 01	Big, bold and musical and never gives any doubt that everything's under control.	A	60	4	m/c	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mark Levinson No 383	5495	★★★★★ Jan 01	A massive slice of Mark Levinson quality in a fabulous one-box package.	A	100	3	No	0	1	No	No	Yes
Meridian 551	845	★★★☆☆ May 94	Refined but needs a shade more punch. Huge option range but no remote as standard.	A	50	6	Opt	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Monrio Asty	550	★★★★☆ Jan 98	Appealing sound and stylish looks makes the little Asty amp fine value for money.	A	55	5	No	1	1	No	No	No
Musical Fidelity X-A200R	700	★★★★☆ Jun 01	Belies its size by producing a gutsy, full of vigour performance.	A	75	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Musical Fidelity A3	849	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Fine amp with stunning midrange, fine treble and great detail. Superb for classical.	A	85	4	m/c	1	1	No	No	Yes
NAD S300	1500	★★★★☆ Jul 99	Highly distinctive with stunning build and elegant styling, only the bass lets it down.	A	100	3	No	1		No	No	Yes
Naim Nait 5	799	★★★★☆ Jun 01	Surefooted timing and communication of emotion shine through.	A	30	3	Opt	3	1	No	No	Yes
Plinius 8200	2250	★★★★☆ Jan 01	Solid performer that doesn't lack talent, but just needs a little bit more honing.	A	175	3	m/c	2	2	No	No	Yes
Primare A-20 MkII	700	★★★★★ Dec 98	Retains all the strength of the original but now has added bite as well as finesse.	A	70	4	No	0	1	No	No	Yes
Primare A30.1	1500	★★★★★ Nov 98	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Formidable combination of power, agility and real finesse.	A	100	6	Opt	2	1	No	No	Yes
Roksan Caspian Mk ii	800	★★★★★ Sep 01	The Caspian was a fine amp at the price - the Caspian MkII is absolutely stunning.	A	70	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Rotel RA1060	600	★★★★★ Jul 01	Great amplifier - storming sound, simplicity of operation and reassuringly solid.	A	60	4	No	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sharp SM-SX1 (Digital)	3300	★★★★★ Dec 00	A taste of the future - Sharp's DX-SX1 SACD player plus this digital amp are stunning.	A	50	3	No	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Shearne Audio Phase 2 Ref	799	★★★★★ Feb 98	A serious contender, with a lively, forceful, open sound. Even better than the Phase 2.	A	50	5	Opt	2	1	No	Yes	No
Sonic Link DM20 Gold	598	★★★★☆ AU Oct 91	Transparent, forthright sound. Use with efficient speakers to avoid shortage of grunt!	A	30	3	m/c	1	1	No	Yes	No
Sonic Link DM30	725	★★☆☆☆ AU Aug 93	Enjoys valve-like lucidity in midrange and precise imaging, but is dynamically limited.	A	25	3	m/c	1	1	No	Yes	No
Sony TA-FA777ES	1500	★★★★☆ Mar 00	Makes a fine team with the Sony SCD-777ES SACD player. Deserves consideration.	A	100	3	m/c	3	2	Yes	Yes	No
Sugden A21a	999	★★★★★ Jul 01	Terrific product that is good enough to take on the best at this price.	A	25	4	m/c	1	1	No	No	No
TACT Millennium M1 mkII	7000	★★★★★ Jul 99	Amazing digital amp with digital inputs only - the best powerhouse we've ever heard.	A	150	4	No	0	1	No	No	No
TAG McLaren Audio 60iRv	999	★★★★☆ Nov 98	Worthwhile update to the Audiolab model it is based on, but the price rises too.	A	60	6	No	3	1	No	Yes	Yes
Talk Electronics Cyclone 1L	599	★★★★★ Sep 99	Smooth-looking, the Cyclone takes over where the old storm left off. An excellent buy.	A	65	4	Opt	2	1	No	No	Yes
Thule Audio Spirit IA100	600	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Style a-plenty and a rich sound, but it is just a little lacklustre and restrained.	A	100	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Thule Audio Spirit IA60B	700	★★★★☆ Jan 99	User-friendly with simple styling and has plenty of power and control.	A	60	6	No	1	1	Yes	No	Yes
Tube Technology Unisis Sig	2400	★★★★☆ Feb 95	Stupendously attractive valve amp; looks and great sound make it seriously good value.	A	35	4	m	1	1	No	No	No
Tube Technology Synergy PPS	6900	★★★★★ Jan 99	Gorgeous valve amp with all the convenience and power the modern day user demands.	A	150	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Unison Research S.2 (valve)	975	★★★★☆ Feb 01	Odd looks that belie a sweet and enchanting valve sound.	A	12	4	No	1	1	No	No	No
Unison Research S.8	3100	★★★★☆ Jul 00	Fabulous with vocals - this amp puts refinement ahead of sonic fireworks.	A	24	4	No	1	2	No	No	Yes

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UP TO £500 AMPLIFIERS/RECEIVERS

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	TYPE	POWER	LINE LEVEL INPUTS	PHONOSTAGE	TAPE LOOPS	SPEAKERS	TONE CONTROLS	HEADPHONES	REMOTE
NAD 319	500	★★★★☆	May 00	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Hugely powerful and majors on detail and dynamics.	A	125	4	No	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nakamichi RE-10	350	★★★★☆	Nov 99	Combines tuner and amp successfully, but sound lacks excitement and attack.	R	100	6	No	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Onkyo A-9211	200	★★★☆☆	Oct 99	Inoffensive sound, with a good range of facilities but the sparkle isn't there.	A	40	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pioneer A-307R	180	★★★☆☆	Dec 99	Full-on sound that lacks subtlety and substance and is fatiguing over the long-term.	A	45	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pioneer A-607R	300	★★☆☆☆	May 00	Thin and uninviting sound that doesn't inspire or excite, it's no match for rivals.	A	80	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Primare A-10	500	★★★☆☆	Jun 00	Does nothing significant wrong, but the sound is strangely detached and it's a bit quirky.	A	50	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Rega Brio	298	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. A direct sound that knows how to rock.	A	38	3	m	1	1	No	No	No
Roksan Kandy KA-1	495	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Sounds big and bold, never dull - a solid buy although it can sound too characterful.	A	110	6	m	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Rotel RA-931 MkII	189	★★★★★	Dec 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. A punchy amp that's a superb all-rounder.	A	35	3	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	No
Rotel RA-971 Mk II	275	★★★★☆	Dec 00	Lacks style but its revealing sound ensures rock and dance sound full-on yet involving.	A	60	4	No	2	2	Yes	Yes	No
Sony TA-FE230	100	★★★★☆	Dec 99	Bargain price for an amp that's so well-built, but the performance is restricted.	A	40	3	m	2	1	Yes	Yes	No
Sony TA-FB940R	300	★★★★★	Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 - plenty of features and an attention-grabbing sound.	A	60	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio 60i	500	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Hugely impressive, highly involving - will control even demanding speakers.	A	60	3	No	3	1	No	Yes	Yes
Technics SU-V300 MkII	130	★★★☆☆	Dec 99	Competitive price, but the amp isn't - not for audiophiles on a budget.	A	27	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	No
Technics SU-V620 MkII	230	★★★☆☆	Mar 00	Powerful, rich and smooth it may be, but this amp simply fails to excite.	A	70	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Technics SU-A808	299	★★★☆☆	May 00	Overly-smooth and refined sound which saps the pep out of pop.	A	55	4	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Token K50	345	★★★★☆	May 99	Crystal clear and detailed sound. Worth auditioning even though the build is poor.	A	50	5	No	1	1	No	No	No
Yamaha AX-396	180	★★★☆☆	Jul 00	Has all the right credentials, but it's rather anonymous and unexciting.	A	60	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yamaha AX-596	300	★★★☆☆	Dec 00	Puts in a bold performance though it trades some treble detail for a smooth delivery.	A	100	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes

£501–£55000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	TYPE	POWER	LINE LEVEL INPUTS	PHONOSTAGE	TAPE LOOPS	SPEAKERS	TONE CONTROLS	HEADPHONES	REMOTE
Arcam DIVA A85	750	★★★★★	Nov 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. A solid, weighty and involving listen.	A	85	5	Opt	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arcam FMJ A22	1000	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Hugely flexible with fine dynamics, but it is not one to set the pulses racing.	A	100	5	Opt	2	2	No	Yes	Yes
Audio Analogue Puccini Remote	575	★★★★★	May 00	Hard to beat for refinement, detail and a natural balance. Excellent phono stage.	A	45	5	m/c	1	1	No	No	Yes
Audio Analogue Puccini SE Rem	795	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Beguiling and never fails to draw the listener into the music. Give it a serious audition.	A	56	4	m/c	2	2	No	No	Yes
Audio Note Oto	1300	★★★★☆	Aug 94	Valve amp with a tight, fast sound. Plenty of attack and treble to match its hefty bass.	A	12	3	m/c	1	1	No	No	No
Audio Note Meishu	3500	★★★★☆	Jun 96	A late night amp that delivers the goods at low levels and excels with acoustic music.	A	8	4	m	1	1	No	No	No
Audio Note Ongaku	55000	★★★★★	May 97	Handmade valve amp which we're convinced is simply the best amp mankind can create.	A	30	5	No	0	1	No	No	No
Audio Research CA50	3945	★★★★★	Jul 00	Superb all-rounder that marries the smoothness of valves with plenty of punch.	A	45	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Audion Sterling	600	★★★★★	Jun 97	Simple in the extreme and a joy to use. Will suit valve amp fans on a limited budget.	A	12	1	No	0	1	No	No	Yes
AVI S2000MI	999	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Excels with the heavy stuff but comes a bit unstuck with subtle passages.	A	100	4	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Bow Technology ZZ-One Ref	2995	★★★★★	May 97	Full, fast and frankly frightening we were awestruck by the capabilities of this amp.	A	75	5	No	1	1	No	No	No
Bryston B60	1350	★★★★☆	Feb 00	No-nonsense product that simply gets on with the task of reproducing music.	A	60	4	No	1	1	No	Yes	No
Cary Audio Design cad-300sei	3995	★★★★★	Jan 01	Sounds glorious in a sensitively assembled system but beware the valves as they run hot	A	15	3	No		1	No	Yes	No
Credo IMP703	1000	★★★★☆	May 96	Smooth, detailed sound is relaxing. A great amp for vinyl users, less appealing with rock.	A	70	5	m/c	2	1	No	No	Yes
Creek 5350SE	799	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Likeable amp which delivers a wealth of detail but it's let down by a not-quite-£800 feel.	A	90	4	Opt	2	2	No	Yes	Yes
Cymbol Electronics CA1	599	★★★★☆	Jan 98	A competitive design from a new British name. Sounds fresh, fast and exciting.	A	40	5	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Cyrus 7	700	★★★★★	Jun 01	Fast and punchy without ever sacrificing refinement - easy upgradability.	A	60	6	No	1	2	No	Yes	Yes
Ear/Yoshino V20	2700	★★★★★	Nov 98	Stunning valve amplifier with top quality sonics. Choose speakers with care.	A	25	5	No	0	1	No	No	No
Electrocompaniet EC1-3	999	★★★★★	Jan 00	Offers transparency and naturalness not normally found at this price.	A	75	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Exposure 2010 Titanium Remote	599	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Punchy powerhouse of an amp, but levels of detail are not quite up to the competition.	A	50	4	Opt	1	2	No	No	Yes
Jeff Rowland Concentra	5500	★★★★★	Nov 98	Phenomenal standard of build and finish, detail retrieval and grip. A first-class amp.	A	100	6	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Krell KAV300i	2790	★★★★★	Jun 96	Power and control with a fulsome delivery. Sit back, at some distance, and let it drive.	A	150	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Linn Direktor	795	★★★★☆	Jan 98	Linn owners can enjoy multiroom via the Direktor - an amp and system controller.	A	25	3	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Linn Majik	800	★★★☆☆	Jun 01	Does everything perfectly competently, it just lacks a certain sparkle.	A	33	3	m/c	2	2	No	Yes	Yes

Speakers

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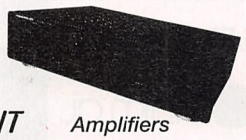
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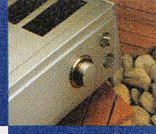

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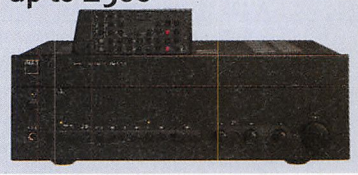

1 **NAD C370** £449
2 **Rega Brio** £298
3 **Cambridge A5** £120
4 **NAD C350** £330
5 **Marantz PM6010OSE** £230

Best Buys over £500

1 **Arcam A85** £700
2 **Roksan Caspian** £795
3 **Cyrus 7** £700
4 **Naim Nait 5** £799
5 **Musical Fidelity A3i** £849

KEY: Type Is it a standard integrated amplifier (A), or does it have a built-in tuner, making it a receiver (R)?
Power The maximum output per channel, quoted in Watts. More power doesn't make a better amp, but it can help!
Line level inputs For CD players, tuners and the like
Phono stage Allows a turntable to be connected. Come in moving coil (C) or moving magnet (M) flavours, or are even switchable between the two. N = No, OPT = OPTIONAL
Tape loops In/out sockets for recording/playback
Speakers How many pairs can it drive?
Tone controls Well, you might need them one day...
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS								
				TYPE	POWER	LINE LEVEL INPUTS	PHONOSTAGE	TAPE LOOPS	SPEAKERS	TONE CONTROLS	HEADPHONES	REMOTE
Arcam DiVA A65	380	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	Sounds very very ordinary, there's reasonable detail but the spark is drained from music.	A	40	4	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arcam DiVA A75	450	★★★☆☆ May 01	Disappointing - a capable enough performer but lacks the sparkle of the best.	A	50	5	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ariston AX-910	80	★★★★☆ Jul 98	As a rocker this amp is undefeated under £100. It mixes real guts with subtlety.	A	30	4	Opt	1	1	Yes	No	No
Audio Analogue Puccini	475	★★★★☆ Sep 99	Classy amp, with warm, generous sound and for some its Latin refinement will be alluring	A	40	5	m/c	1	1	No	No	No
Cambridge Audio A1 Mk3 SE	120	★★★★☆ Jul 99	Built to a high standard and well-balanced, but you can buy better for not much more.	A	30	4	Opt	1	1	Yes	No	No
Cambridge Audio A4	120	★★★★☆ Jun 00	An impressive amp at the price. Could be more exciting, but it is well worth a listen.	A	50	5	No	1	1	Yes	No	No
Cambridge Audio A5	120	★★★★★ Jul 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Rich and powerful, combining weight and insight.	A	60	5	Opt	1	1	Yes	No	No
Cambridge Audio A500	200	★★★☆☆ Dec 99	Strictly average value, and a tendency to sound muddled. A 'so what' musical experience.	A	50	3	m	1	2	Yes	No	Yes
Creek 4330 Mk2	320	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Plenty to admire - particularly impressive with vocal and instrumental characterisations.	A	40	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Cyrus 5	500	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Sweet yet deceptively powerful-sounding - you'll not be disappointed with this amp.	A	40	6	No	1	2	No	Yes	Yes
Denon PMA-255UK	140	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Modest pricing and exciting presentation - very definitely an amplifier to consider.	A	30	4	No	1	1	Yes	Yes	No
Denon DRA-455	200	★★★★★ Aug 01	Good value and best of all, it sounds great. Even the phono stage sounds acceptable.	R	52	2	mm	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Denon PMA-355UK	230	★★★★☆ Dec 00	As long as you avoid bright-sounding speakers this amp can really turn on the thrills.	A	50	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Denon PMA-1500R	500	★★★★☆ May 00	Solid performer with warm rich sound that appeals because of its build and features.	A	70	4	m/c	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Edmund Audio ESI 10	400	★★★★☆ Jan 99	Good limited-edition amp with smooth, cultured sound but nothing sets it apart.	A	85	5	No	1	1	No	Yes	No
JVC AX-R5	200	★★★☆☆ Apr 99	Not a purchase for all-out performance but has no real shortcomings and is easy to use.	A	40	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
JVC AX-A372BK	200	★★☆☆☆ Jul 99	Well-equipped and nicely finished but this old smoothie sucks the life out of music.	A	45	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	No
Kenwood KAF-1030	150	★★★★☆ Jul 01	Fine amp if you want maximum thrills, but others do a better job for the same money.	A	60	3	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	No
Kenwood KAF-3030R/S	250	★★★★☆ Dec 00	Best suited to upbeat rock and pop, it manages to excite without fatiguing.	A	50	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Magnum IA 170	350	★★★★☆ Jul 96	Exciting, purposeful, and strikingly communicative whatever you throw at it.	A	70	6	Opt	1	2	No	Yes	No
Marantz PM-4000	150	★★★★★ Jul 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Well-built and it knows how to hit the right spot.	A	30	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM6010 OSE	230	★★★★★ Sep 99	The mix of looks, facilities and sheer musicality give this amp real star quality.	A	50	4	m	2	1	No	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM7000	300	★★★★☆ Mar 00	Pleasing performer with classical and vocal music but lacks the sparkle of some rivals.	A	95	5	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM6010 KI	400	★★★★★ Sep 01	If you like bright yet weighty, detailed yet wide-open sound this is something special.	A	50	3	m	2	1	No	Yes	Yes
Musical Fidelity X-A2	500	★★★★★ Sep 00	Piles on the thrills while making true music - capable of driving big demanding speakers.	A	75	5	No	1	1	No	No	No
NAD C300	150	★★★☆☆ Jun 00	Blends warmth and focus with clarity and agility. Not quite the most exciting budget buy.	A	25	5	No	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD C320	220	★★★★★ Dec 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1998. Still a fine buy and a must-listen.	A	40	5	No	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD C340	270	★★★★★ Apr 99	Product of the Year in the Awards 1999. Combines clout with an expressive presentation.	A	50	5	No	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD C350	330	★★★★★ Sep 01	Big and effortless sound - does more in every respect than you'd expect from its price.	A	60	5	No	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD C370	450	★★★★★ Nov 01	Product of the Year in the Award 2001. Dynamite, power and poise in equal measure.	A	120	5	No	2	2	No	Yes	Yes

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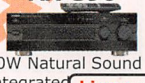

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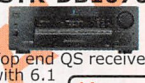

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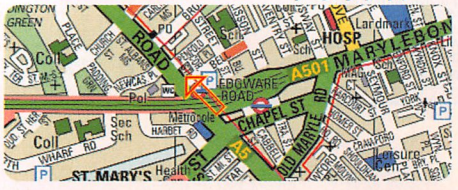

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- Dolby digital • DTS
- Pro-logic
- Component video in/out
- learning remote
- 4mm speaker sockets

£999 *0% APR OPTION

MISSION CINEMA 6

Cash price: £349
Deposit £34.90 then 18 equal payments of £17.45 per month.
Total £349 - 0% apr

6 Satellite speakers Package Comprising:
- 70 x 5 front, rear & centre
- 70ASE active sub

£349 + 0% APR!

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YAMAHA DSPAX620

EXTENDED WARRANTY 3 YEAR - £55 5 YEAR - £89

Cinema DSP Amp
- Dolby digital • DTS
- Pro-logic
- 6 channel input
- Preset remote
- 90W x 5

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KEF KHT2005

Cash price: £799.99.
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Home Cinema Package
- Features: 5 x satellite loudspeakers in silver finish
- Active subwoofer with 150w built in amplifier

£799 *0% APR

YAMAHA RXV620RDS

Digital Home Cinema Receiver
- Digital ToP-Art
- Surround decoding and DSP processing
- 26 Surround programmes
- Digitally regulated volume control • Silent cinema
- Virtual cinema DSP

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MARANTZ SR4200

AV Receiver
- 5.1 channel
- 5 x 70W
- Dolby digital/DTS built-in
- 24bit/96kHz DAC
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- RDS

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PIONEER DV444/DV545

Multi Region DVD
- Advanced player, compatible with CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-R and DVD-RW (video mode)
- Burr-brown 192kHz/24-bit DAC • Superb spec : 540 lines horizontal resolution
- Picture parameter adjustments
- Includes MP3 playback with on-screen playback

EXTENDED WARRANTY 3 YEAR - £69 5 YEAR - £119

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YAMAHA RXV420RDS/NSP220

RXV420RDS
AC3/DTS Receiver
- 70W x 5 • Dolby digital/DTS
- 6 Channel input • 5 S-video

NSP220
Home Cinema Speaker Package
- Comprising 5 satellite speakers and active subwoofer + cable

Separately Priced £498

£379 *0% APR OPTION

YAMAHA & SONY RXV420RDS/SAVE505

SAVE505
Surround Speaker Package
- Comprising 5 satellite speakers and active subwoofer

RXV420RDS
AC3/DTS Receiver
- 70W x 5 • Dolby digital/DTS
- 6 Channel input • 5 S-video
- Separately priced £549

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YAMAHA RXV396RDS/NSP220

RXV396RDS
AC3 Receiver
- 60W x 5 • 10 DSP modes
- 6 ch input for DTS • Remote

NSP220
Home Cinema Speaker Package
- Comprising 5 satellite speakers and active subwoofer + cable

Separately Priced £448

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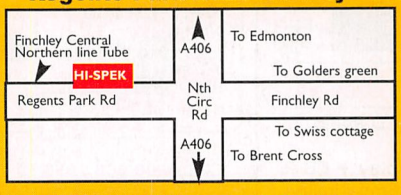

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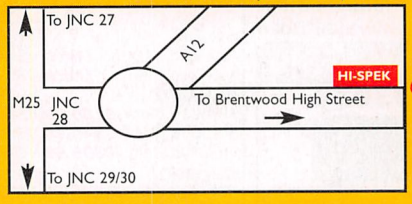

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Home Cinema Subwoofer
- 250 watts advanced servo technology
- QDB subwoofer
- Easy placement
- High performance

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MISSION CINEMA 72

Speaker Package
- Comprising : M72, M7DS Rear, M7C centre
- Outstanding performance from this new speaker package

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£399 + 0% APR!

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Micro System + KEF Cresta 2 Speakers
- Each component 215mm wide
- Independent power supplied
- Optional Mini disc + CD recorder available

Also available REF100 & REF500 ask for best deal

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Stereo Integrated Amplifier
- 2 x 50 watts continuous power in to 8 ohms
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3 box system comprising : Dolby digital and DTS in a compact A/V receiver, 3 channel power amplifier and a DVD video player. Available in multi region.

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MJD508 - Mini Disc Player
- Digital noise reduction
- Editing modes
- Digital REC volume memory
- 30-track programme play
- Random play

PDR609 - CD Recorder
- 2 Channels
- Sampling frequency 44.1kHz

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SONY DAVS300/500/800

A/V System Region 2 or Multi Region
- DVD/CD player
- Dolby digital. Dolby prologic and DTS decoder built-in
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PHILIPS DVD957

Design Line Multi Region DVD Player
- AC3 and DTS decoder built-in
- Dual laser drive
- CDR/CD-RW playback
- Perfect still picture and zoom
- Smart picture
- 3D sound • 2 x scarts
- Optical/Coaxial digital audio output

Original Price £449

£279 *0% APR OPTION

PHILIPS DVDR1000

DVD Recorder
- DVD + RW format • Fully compatible with DVD-R, DVD video, Video CD, Audio CD, CD-R & CD-RW • All recordings can be replayed on existing DVD players • Up to 4 hrs recording per disc • Multi-standard TV tuner • IEEE link input • Twin scart sockets, S video in/out
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DENON AVR1602 & AVR3802

Picture shown AVR3802

AV Receiver
- 7 x 105W (3802)
- 6 x 90W (1602)
- DTS-ES 6.1 Discrete
- Pro-logic II
- Fm/am RDS tuner

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Picture: CDR775

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- Variable microphone input
- Headphone connection
- Plays CD-R & CD-RW
- Remote control

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- 2 x digital outputs
- Dolby digital
- DTS • 96-KHz
- 24-bit DAC • Scart

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- Amplifier • Tuner with display and remote control
- DVD/VCD/CD/ Receiver
- Speaker system: wood-tone subwoofer and satellite speakers

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UK Model Brand New and Boxed includes 2 year full Yanaha UK warranty

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- Matrix 6.1 • DTS ES
- 100W x 5 • RDS Tuner

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- Dolby digital/DTS compatible
- Component video output
- MP3 Playback
- Multi-bit Delta sigma D/A converter
- Enhanced video amplifier

£CALL *0% APR OPTION

DENON DVD2800

DVD Player
- 5 Video adjustment controls - contrast sharpness, brightness, gamma and Hue
- HDCD Decoder
- PAL/NTSC conversion output
- PureProgressive Circuit
- Super sub alias filter
- MP3 Playback

Cash price: £749 Deposit £74.90 then 24 equal payments of £28.08 per month. Total £749 - 0% apr

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Multi Region DVD Player
- Dolby digital, DTS and MPEG playback
- 10bit/27mHz Video DAC
- 24bit/96kHz Video DAC
- Easy set-up
- Virtualised surround sound experience from a two speaker playback with any multichannel audio source
- CD-R & CD-RW playback

Cash price: £399 Deposit £39.90 then 24 equal payments of £14.96 per month. Total £399 - 0% apr

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MISSION
M7C +0% APR £99
77C1+0% APR £199
TANNOY
MXC £99
YAMAHA
NSC120 + 0% APR £99
NSC300 + 0% APR £199

BOOKSHELF SPEAKERS

KEF
CRESTA1 £78
CRESTA2 £117
Q15.2 +0% APR £199
MISSION
M71+0% APR £129
M72 +0% APR £169
771E +0% APR £199
TANNOY
MXR £76
MX1 £91
MX2 £114

FLOORSTANDING SPEAKERS

KEF
CRESTA3 £195
Q35.2 +0% APR £349
Q55.2 +0% APR £499
Q65.2 +0% APR £699
LINN
KEOSA + 0% APR £525
NINKA + 0% APR £945

HOME CINEMA REMOTE CONTROLS

SONY RMAV2100T
Home cinema remote
- Learning remote operating up to 12 devices • Easy to operate touch key LCD with blue back light

PHILIPS PRONTO RU940
Home cinema remote
- Large touch screen liquid crystal display
- Replaces all other remote controls

MARANTZ RC5000i
Home cinema remote
- Universal learning remote • 2 Mb memory
- Large touch screen LCD • Direct access buttons

HiSPEK electronics

Hi SPEK electronics

PHILIPS 32PW9544

32" Silver Shadow Design Line TV
- Superflat Blackline-S
- 100Hz digital scan
- Widescreen Plus
- Incredible sound and 3 speaker system
- includes designer stand

£899 *0% APR OPTION

PANASONIC TX32PK25

TAU 16:9 widescreen TV
- 76cm V Quintrix F flat CRT
- 100Hz super digital scan • NICAM
- Open dome Acoustic feedback sound
- Supplied with glass cabinet

£899 *0% APR OPTION

PANASONIC TX36PG50

TAU 16:9 Widescreen TV
- 86cm V Quintrix F flat CRT
- Advanced 100Hz super digital scan
- Advanced progressive scan
- Includes cabinet

UK's lowest price

TELEVISIONS

WIDESCREEN NICAM

JVC

AV24WT5	24"
AV28WT5	28"
AV28WFT1 *	28"
AV32WFT1 *	32"
AV28X10 *	28"
AV28S2 *	28"
AV32S2 *	32"
AV32WL5 *	32"

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PANASONIC

TX24DX1	24"
TX28PL1	28"
TX28PL10	28"
TX32PL10	32"
TX28PK3	28"
TX32PK25	32"
TX32PG30	32"
TX36PF10	36"
TX36PL30	36"

PHILIPS

24PW6006	24"
28PW6006	28"
28PW6515	28"
28PW9536	28"
32PW6006	32"
32PW6515	32"
32PW9525	32"
32PW9536	32"
32PW9556	32"
32PW9566	32"
32PW9576	32"

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32PW9546	32"
36PW9525	36"

SONY

KV24LS35	24"
KV28LS35	28"
KV28FX65	28"
KV28FQ75	28"
KV32LS35	32"
KV32FX65	32"
KV32FQ75	32"
KV36FS70	32"

TOSHIBA

28ZD06B	28"

WIDESCREEN INTEGRATED DIGITAL

PANASONIC

TX28DT2	28"
TX32DT2	32"

PHILIPS

28DW9625	28"
32DW9625	32"

SONY

KV28DX30	28"
KV32DX30	32"
KV28DS65	28"
KV32DS65	32"
KV32DX40	32"
KV32DX100	32"
KV32NX100	32"

TOSHIBA

28WT98B	28"
32WT98B	32"

WIDESCREEN INTEGRATED DVD

PHILIPS

28PW6816	28"
28PW6826	28"
32PW6826	32"

WIDESCREEN DOLBY DIGITAL

JVC

AV32P10 *	32"

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TX28PG45	32"
TX32PG50	32"
TX36PG50	36"
TX28PB50	28"
TX32PB50	32"
TX36PB50	36"

PHILIPS

28PW9616	28"
32PW9616	32"

TOSHIBA

32ZD09B	32"
32ZP18B	32"
36ZP18B	36"

DOLBY PROLOGIC

JVC

AV28WFR1 *	28"
AV32WFR1 *	32"

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28"/32" Widescreen TV
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- Digital noise reduction
- Dynamic picture control

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5 YEAR - £129

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SONY KV28LS35/KV32LS35

SUPPLIED WITH CABINET!

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- Virtual dolby
- Nicam stereo sound
- Auto volume adjustment
- Auto tuning/start-up/labelling
- SmartLink • Fastext
- 2 x scart

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5 YEAR - £189

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PANASONIC TX28PB50

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- Dolby digital

EXTENDED WARRANTY
3 YEAR - £109
5 YEAR - £159

£CALL *0% APR OPTION

TOSHIBA 32ZP18B/36ZP18B

SUPPLIED WITH CABINET!

Picture Frame Face Flat TV
- Visible screen size V76/V86cm
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5 YEAR - £159

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TOSHIBA 46WH08B / 40WH08B

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- CABINET INCLUDED
- PRO SPEAKER STANDS INCLUDED
- 5 YEAR WARRANTY INCLUDED
- 0% APR OPTION INCLUDED

Widescreen Projection TV
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- 3-scarts • Dolby digital

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- BBE sound system
- T-V Link • Auto panaramic
- Acylic green/blue colour

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PHILIPS 28PW6305/28PW6006

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28"(66cm) Nicam WideScreen TV
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- Twin TeleText pages
- Cabinet included

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PHILIPS 28PW9616/32PW9616

SUPPLIED WITH OR WITHOUT CABINET!

TAU 16:9 widescreen TV
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- 100Hz super digital scan
- NICAM • Open dom Acoustic feedback sound
- Optional glass cabinet

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TELEVISIONS

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PANASONIC

TX28PL4	28"

PHILIPS

28PW6315	28"
32PW6315	32"
28PW6526	282"

SONY

KV36FS70	36"

TOSHIBA

28Z07B	28"
32Z17B	32"

PROJECTION TVS

PANASONIC

TX42PT10	42"

SONY

KP41DS1	41"
KP51DS1	51"
KP48PSI	48"
KP53PS1	53"
KP61PS1	61"
KP44PS2	44"
KP48PS2	48"
KP53PS2	53"
KP61PS2	61"
KF50SX100	50"

TOSHIBA

40PW13B†	40"
40WH08B*	40"
46WH08B*	46"
56WH08B	56"
42WH18B	42"
50WH18B	50"

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- FREE 5 YEAR WARRANTY*†
- FREE DELIVERY*†
- INTEREST FREE OPTION*†
- FREE OFFERS WHILE STOCKS LAST

PLASMA

JVC

GDV4211PZW	42"

PANASONIC

TH37PW4B	37"
TH42PW4B	42"
TH50PHW3B	50"

PHILIPS

42PF9952	42"

PIONEER

PDP502MX	50"
PDP503MX	50"

SONY

PFM42B1	42"

VIDEO RECORDERS

VHS NICAM VCR

JVC

HRJ680	VCR

PANASONIC

NVFJ620	VCR
NVFJ625	VCR
NVFJ710	VCR
NVFJ760	VCR

PHILIPS

VR572	VCR
VR720	VCR
VR765	VCR
VR870	VCR

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SONY

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SLVSE810	VCR
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TOSHIBA

V711	VCR
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SVHS VCR

PHILIPS

VR1100	VCR

JVC

HRS6855	VCR
HRS6856	VCR
HRS6857	VCR
HRS7860	VCR
HRS8850	VCR
HRS9850	VCR

PANASONIC

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NVHS825	VCR
NVHS860	VCR
NVHS870	VCR
NVHS960	VCR

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LIFESTYLE® 8 MK2

Bose home cinema at it's most affordable. The new lifestyle 8 system offers 5 newly engineered single cube speakers, an approved acoustimass module, compatibility with the latest digital formats using Bose videostage 5 decoding. The elegant music centre featuring a single CD player and 20 pre-set am/fm stations is also provided as is the remote control

£1250
+ 0% APR
12 MONTHS
10% DEPOSIT

FREE PHILIPS DVD PLAYER
ONLY £50 while stocks last

LIFESTYLE® 12 MK2

Digital sound quality and multi-channel decoding for the most up-to-date surround sound available. CD, Tuner and connections for external video and digital sources in to its control centre, the Lifestyle 12 is also supplied with Dual Cube, Direct/Reflecting speakers for front, rear and centre effects, combined with an active Acoustimass bass module. Can also be expanded to play the same audio source in two or more rooms of your home.

£1750
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10% DEPOSIT

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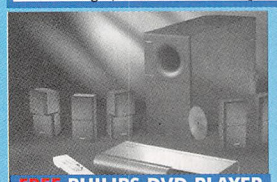
ONLY £25 while stocks last

LIFESTYLE® 25 MK2

The Lifestyle 25 features the newly re-engineered double cubed speaker arrays for improved sound and sleeker look. You get true five speaker performance no matter what you listen to, from the latest DVD's and other digital sources to stereo CD's and radio. The sleek brushed aluminium music centre with 6 CD changer, am/fm and remote are all supplied.



£2300
+ 0% APR
24 MONTHS
10% DEPOSIT

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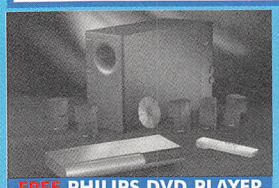
while stocks last

LIFESTYLE® 30

Offering all of the benefits of the Lifestyle 25 System, the Lifestyle 30 includes tiny Jewel Cube Direct /Reflecting speakers for front, rear and centre effects, the Lifestyle 30 offers a Virtually Invisible solution to your home entertainment requirements. The Lifestyle 30 also allows up to two different audio sources to be played simultaneously in two different rooms of your home.



£3300
+ 0% APR
30 MONTHS
10% DEPOSIT

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while stocks last

LIFESTYLE® 50

The heart of the lifestyle 50 system is an engineering marvel - the hand held personal music centre it puts the entire system literally at your finger tips. It features radio frequency technology and a touch screen to control your system in your home but giving you full information on system status. This system has to be seen to be believed.

£4500
+ 0% APR
36 MONTHS
10% DEPOSIT

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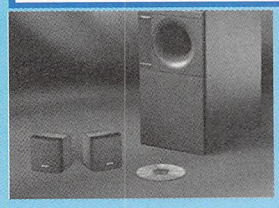
while stocks last

ACOUSTIMASS® 3 MK3

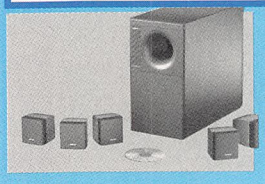
Virtually Invisible single cube stereo speakers combined with an extra compact passive Acoustimass bass module delivering big speaker performance. A superb choice for smaller environments and a fantastic upgrade for micro and mini systems.



£250
+ 0% APR
12 MONTHS
10% DEPOSIT

ACOUSTIMASS® 6

If you want to enjoy quality home cinema surround sound where space is tight, the Acoustimass 6 system is the choice to make. The benefits of Acoustimass technology are all here in this entry-level system. You get deep, powerful bass with no audible distortion from a module you can hide out of sight. And the five virtually invisible single cube speakers are acoustically matched for smoothly seamless surround sound.



£500
+ 0% APR
18 MONTHS
10% DEPOSIT

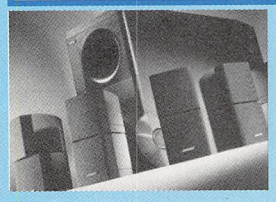
ACOUSTIMASS® 5 MK3

Direct-Reflecting Speaker System
These best selling Bose speakers feature the latest re-engineered double cube array speakers together with the latest version acoustimass module.
Try these speakers with your favourite amp or mini/micro system and be amazed in the transformation of sound.

£400
+ 0% APR
18 MONTHS
10% DEPOSIT

ACOUSTIMASS® 15

If your passion is home cinema then this is the system you have been waiting for. The powered acoustimass module and 5 twin cubed speaker arrays are acoustically matched to deliver the most balanced surround sound with the latest dolby digital/DTS amplifiers call in for a demonstration before selecting any other speaker package



£1000
+ 0% APR
24 MONTHS
10% DEPOSIT

ACOUSTIMASS® 10

Dual Cube, Direct/Reflecting speakers for front, rear and centre effects, combined with a passive Acoustimass bass module for incredibly deep, clear, un-distorted bass. Engineered for listeners who appreciate music as much as home cinema, The Acoustimass 10 offers true lifelike sound in any domestic environment.

£700
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10% DEPOSIT

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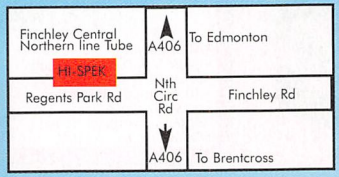

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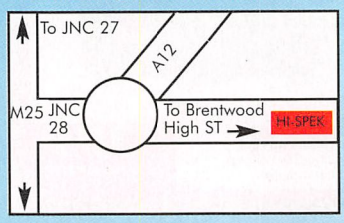

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TUNERS PAGE 164

TUNERS BEST BUYS

up to £500

1 **VideoLogic DRX-601ES (DAB)** £349
2 **Denon TU-260L MkII** £130
3 **Creek T43** £399

over £500

1 **Sony ST-D777ES (DAB)** £600
2 **Naim NAT05** £725
3 **Marantz ST-17** £600
4 **Musical Fidelity A3** £600
5 **TAG McLaren T32R** £2300

KEY: Type Modern hi-fi tuners offer stereo reception either on FM analogue (A) or digital radio, also known as DAB (B). Some even offer both modes of reception.
Bands D = digital radio/DAB; FM = FM stereo; MW = medium wave; LW = long wave
Presets How many memory positions are available to store favourite stations? Less important with digital radio, due to the way the broadcasts are received and accessed.
RDS The Radio Data System, transmitted with FM analogue broadcasts, allows a range of extra facilities including Radiotext, station-naming and automatic retuning.
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £3000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS				
				TYPE	BANDS	PRESETS	AUTO TUNE	RDS
Arcam DiVA DT81	650	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	Logical choice if you have a DiVA or FMJ system but there are very strong rivals around.	D	DAB	16	Yes	No
Arcam FMJ DT26	1000	★★★★☆ Sep 00	Fine digital tuner - the big, powerful sound suits everything from dance to classical.	D	DAB	7	Yes	No
AVI S2000MT II	899	★★★★☆ May 99	Smooth and musical and offers seven wavebands and RDS, to boot.	A	FM/MW/LW/SW	80	No	Yes
Creek T43	399	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. A good buy if you can live without bells and whistles.	A	FM/MW/LW	64	Yes	No
Cymbol Electronics C-DAB1	999	★★★★☆ Feb 00	Digital tuner that shines with classical concerts due to its revealing sound.	D	DAB	8	Yes	No
Cyrus FM7.5	400	★★★☆☆ Oct 01	Flatters compressed pop, but some will prefer greater insight.	A	FM	29	Yes	No
Denon TU-260L MK II	130	★★★★★ Apr 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Good value for money and makes a fine upgrade.	A	FM/MW/LW	40	Yes	Yes
Denon TU-S10	400	★★★★★ May 98	Smooth, lush and yet well-detailed sound. Only available to order.	A	FM/MW	40	Yes	Yes
Kenwood KTF-2010	130	★★★★☆ Jul 98	Budget priced, ear-friendly radio which will fit nicely into the average system.	A	FM/MW/LW	40	Yes	Yes
Lektropacks RAD-1	199	★★★★☆ Sep 01	Intriguing, if you want to try Digital Radio on a tight budget you won't go far wrong.	D	DAB	30	No	No
Linn Pekin	545	★★★★★ Oct 01	Laidback sound is easy on the ear, but detail and dynamics are plentiful.	A	FM/MW	80	Yes	No
Linn Kremlin	2600	★★★★☆ May 99	Sophisticated, very able piece of kit, with more presets than most will ever need.	A	FM	80	Yes	No
Marantz ST-17	600	★★★★★ May 98	Highly recommended in the Awards 1998. Draws you into the broadcast.	A	FM/MW/LW	60	Yes	Yes
Meridian 504	740	★★★★★ Nov 94	'Warm sounding' FM tuner is one of a few elite tuners on the market.	A	FM	30	No	No
Musical Fidelity A3	600	★★★★★ Feb 01	Easy to use, solidly built and a hugely enjoyable sound with both music and spoken word.	A	FM	20	Yes	Yes
Musical Fidelity X-Plora	600	★★★★★ May 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. A combination of classy build and even classier sound.	A	FM	20	Yes	Yes
NAD C440	200	★★★☆☆ Jan 99	Brash sound which lacks solidity, poky display and dubious build - a disappointment.	A	FM/MW	30	Yes	Yes
Naim NAT05	725	★★★★★ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. The NAT05 has the power to amaze.	A	FM	99	Yes	No
Naim NAT02	1240	★★★★★ Aw 92	Natural, expressive sound quality with marked lack of background noise.	A	FM	0	No	No
Naim NAT01(+ Napst pow sup)	1945	★★★★★ May 99	Quite possibly the best tuner in the world. Partner it well and it will enthral.	A	FM	0	No	No
Pioneer F-208RDS	130	★★★☆☆ Apr 00	Well-equipped and solidly built. An informative listen, but can be a bit bright and brash.	A	FM/MW/LW	30	Yes	Yes
oksan Caspian	695	★★★★☆ Nov 98	Stylish looks and a persuasive sound. Will appeal mainly to Caspian owners.	A	FM	50	Yes	No
Sony ST-SB920	180	★★★★★ Jan 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Nice all-rounder and it's solid and well styled.	A	FM/MW/LW	30	Yes	Yes
Sony ST-D777ES	600	★★★★★ Feb 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Best of all worlds: DAB, FM, MW, LW plus stacks of presets.	D/A	D/FM/MW/LW	99	Yes	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio T32R DAB	2295	★★★★★ Jun 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Highly enjoyable, state of the art digital radio.	D/A	D/FM/MW/LW	99	Yes	Yes
Technics ST-GT550L	150	★★★☆☆ Apr 00	Lacks RDS radiotext and can sound too warm and smooth.	A	FM/MW/LW	39	Yes	Yes
Technics ST-GT1000	500	★★★★☆ Feb 01	Lush, commercial-sound which will please most while annoying a few.	D/A	DAB/FM/MW	97	Yes	Yes
VideoLogic DRX-601E	299	★★★★★ Feb 01	Fine-sounding digital radio tuner at an absolutely stunning price.	D	D	9	Yes	No
Videologic DRX-601ES	349	★★★★★ Sep 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. A match for anything in this small market sector.	D	D	9	Yes	No
Yamaha TX-396L	110	★★★☆☆ Oct 00	Inoffensive if somewhat bland sound - will fit into a wide range of systems with ease.	A	FM/MW/LW	40	Yes	No
Yamaha TX-592RDS	180	★★★★☆ Oct 98	Good all-day-listening tuner though lacking on the facilities front.	A	FM/MW	40	Yes	Yes

KIMBER KABLE 4PR
Speaker Cable from £38 for 2.5m pair

4PR's revolutionary design has put KIMBER KABLE on the map, and the excellence of this cable has made it a real classic. 4PR is a 'little giant killer' out performing cables many times its price. Your system will sound more rythmic, more tuneful and louder!

"The 4PR has real appeal. Vocals punch into the room. Drums snap with real venom, and the soundstage is well-defined and solid."
What Hi-Fi, May 1998

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hull@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Leeds 112 Vicar Lane **0113 245 2775**
leeds@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Liverpool 16 Lord Street **0151 707 8417**
liverpool@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Manchester 69 High Street, City Centre **0161 831 7969**
manchester@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Newcastle 19 Newgate Street **0191 221 2320**
newcastle@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Preston 40-41 Lune Street **01772 825777**
preston@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Sheffield 635 Queens Road, Heeley **0114 255 5861**
sheffield@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

midlands and east

Bedford 29-31 St Peters Street **01234 272779**
bedford@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Cambridge 17 Burleigh Street **01223 304770**
cambridge@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Ipswich 12-14 Dogs Head Street **01473 286977**
ipswich@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Leicester 10 Loseby Lane **0116 253 6567**
leicester@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Lincoln 20-22 Corporation Street **01522 527397**
lincoln@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Norwich 29/29a St Giles Street **01603 767605**
norwich@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Nottingham 597-599 Mansfield Road **0115 911 2121**
nottingham@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Oxford 41 St Clements Street **01865 241773**
oxford@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Peterborough 36-38 Park Road **01733 897697**
peterborough@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

midlands and west

Birmingham 12 Queensway Arches, Livery Street **0121 233 2977**
birmingham@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Bristol 92b White Ladies Road, Clifton **0117 974 3727**
bristol@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Cardiff 104-106 Albany Road **029 2047 2899**
cardiff@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Cheltenham 14 Pitville Street **01242 241171**
cheltenham@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Exeter 28 Cowick Street **01392 218895**
exeter@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Plymouth 107 Cornwall Street **01752 226011**
plymouth@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Swansea 24 Mansel Street **01792 465777**
swansea@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

london and south east

Brighton 57 Western Road, Hove **01273 733338**
brighton@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Bromley 39a East Street **020 8290 1988**
bromley@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Chelsea 403 Kings Road **020 7352 9466**
chelsea@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Crawley 32 The Boulevard **01293 510777**
crawley@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Croydon 369-373 London Road **020 8665 1203**
croydon@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Epsom 12 Upper High Street **01372 720720**
epsom@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Guildford 73b North Street **01483 536666**
guildford@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Holborn 144-148 Grays Inn Road **020 7837 7540**
holborn@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Kingston 43 Fife Road **020 8547 0717**
kingston@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Maidstone 96 Week Street **01622 686366**
maidstone@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Reading 3-4 Kings Walk Shopping Centre **0118 959 7768**
reading@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Sevenoaks 109-113 London Road **01732 459555**
sevenoaks@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Southampton 33 London Road **023 8033 7770**
southampton@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Southgate 79-81 Chase Side **020 8886 2777**
southgate@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Swiss Cottage 21 Northways Parade, Finchley Road **020 7722 9777**
swisscottage@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Tunbridge Wells 28-30 St Johns Road **01892 531543**
tunbridgewells@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

Watford 478 St Albans Road **01923 213533**
watford@sevenoakssoundandvision.com **Open Sunday**

Witham 1 The Grove Centre **01376 501733**
witham@sevenoakssoundandvision.com

stock clearance

With more than forty outlets nationwide, the Sevenoaks Sound & Vision group stock and display a wide range of products. As technology delivers improvements in performance, so individual models and product ranges are changed or superseded. The preceding models are made available at a reduced price, for clearance. Visit our Website for an up-to-date list of the clearance stock, listed by outlet, within the Sevenoaks Sound and Vision group.

0% finance option

Spread the cost of buying. 0% finance option is available on the vast majority of products we stock. Please ask in-store for details.

sevenoaks pricing policy

Whilst we do not claim always to be the cheapest, we try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. Take into account the expert advice, unrivalled product selection, demonstration facilities and excellent pre, during and after sales service and the lower price might not look such good value.

In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention. We will always endeavour to offer you the best deal.

who are sevenoaks?

Founded as Sevenoaks Hi-Fi in the summer of 1972, the original shop, in the market town of Sevenoaks, Kent, quickly gained a reputation for offering a wide range of products at competitive prices, and providing excellent service.

Exciting new technologies like compact disc, meant that throughout the 1980's there was considerable interest in hi-fi and Sevenoaks were able to grow. By 1990, the company was established as one of the leading independent hi-fi specialists in the country.

More stores were opened and a number of the original shops were relocated. In 1995 the important decision was made to change the name to Sevenoaks Sound & Vision, reflecting the wide appeal of new audio visual products.

After twenty-nine years of trading, the company has more than forty outlets nationwide, and is for many of the UK's leading manufactures of electronics and loudspeakers, their largest and most successful retailer.

The people at Sevenoaks appreciate that customers have a choice. This appreciation has meant that over the years Sevenoaks have had to adapt.

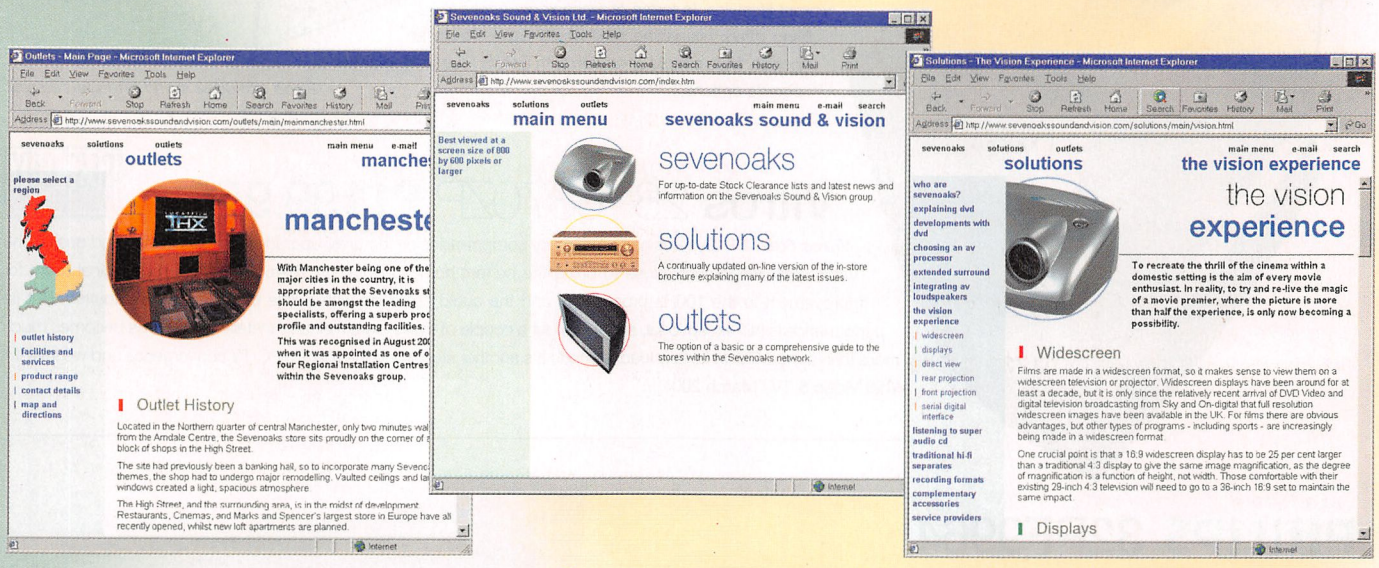
As new products and technologies have arrived, the staff have been trained to ensure that they can explain the issues, simply and informatively.

This orientation to customer service remains, and the implementation of a company charter is one example of this commitment.

By staying true to the original ideals of offering a wide range of the latest products, at competitive prices, and providing superb service in pleasant surroundings, Sevenoaks are able to listen, recommend, demonstrate and supply the products that best suit the needs of their many customers.

As the world becomes a more complex place and people search for entertainment and relaxation, Sevenoaks Sound & Vision believe that whatever the requirement, they have the solution.

sevenoaks online



www.**sevenoaks**soundandvision.com

The Sevenoaks Sound & Vision website has news and information on the Sevenoaks group and its 44 outlets nationwide. The website is designed to provide you with answers to the questions everyone has when buying new equipment.

The site has comprehensive guides to a range of products and technologies from vinyl, compact disc and audio accessories to all the latest formats, including DVD Audio, SACD, widescreen televisions and projectors.

There are regularly updated stock clearance lists with hundreds of products on offer and detailed pages to help you locate your nearest store.

For unbiased advice and information, just click on sevenoakssoundandvision.com.

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SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

Widescreen Selection

Loewe Cantus 3870ZW 28" ex stand	**£749.95**
Loewe Xelos 5270ZW 28" ex stand	**£849.95**
Loewe Xelos 5381ZW 32" ex stand	**£1199.95**
Loewe Planus 4670ZP 28" ex cabinet	**£849.95**
Loewe Planus 4781ZP 32" ex cabinet	**£1349.95**
Loewe Vitros 6381ZP 32" ex cabinet	**£1699.95**
Loewe Aconda 9381ZW 32" ex cabinet	**£1999.95**
Loewe Aconda 9581ZW 32" ex cabinet	**£2249.95**
Loewe Aconda 9581ZW 32" inc cabinet	**£2999.95**
Toshiba 32ZP18P 32" inc stand	**£1399.95**
Toshiba 36ZP18P 36" inc stand	**£1799.95**

Sevenoaks Pricing Policy

see page fifteen for details

LOEWE.

The Aconda Family

Rarely does a line of televisions generate such enthusiasm among both the trade press and television viewers. Loewe Aconda is simply fascinating with its attractive design, elegant finish, simple operation, advanced technology and perfectly flat screen. The wide range of options is exactly what individuals want.

Loewe Aconda can expect to receive even more attention now, with two new models extending the range. Loewe Aconda select and Aconda living open up new individualised possibilities. Loewe MediaPlus technology make it possible to upgrade Aconda features whenever you are ready.

Aconda Living

32" 9281ZW £1799.95

Aconda Living combines advanced technology with light, modern aesthetics. Featuring bright new front panel colours and a new platinum coloured back, Aconda living offers a refreshing alternative. Available in Light Silver, Light Blue or Light Green: Aconda living is perfect for young and vibrant lifestyles. In terms of technology, Aconda living offers everything you would expect from an Aconda, from simple operation with OPCS Plus to MediaPlus upgrade options.

Price excludes stand and DVD Player

Vitros 28" 6370ZP £1199.95

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

Vitros 6381ZP "By refusing to make any compromises on features, upgrade potential, design and quality, the Vitros gets dangerously close to being the perfect home cinema TV. There's still perhaps marginal room for improvement in the 100Hz processing, and the audio could do with a little more vertical distribution. But its performance is still exceptional, and if you get a couple of those extra modules installed, the Vitros becomes much more than a mere TV. In its fully loaded mode it's another step along the road to PC/TV convergence and we love it."

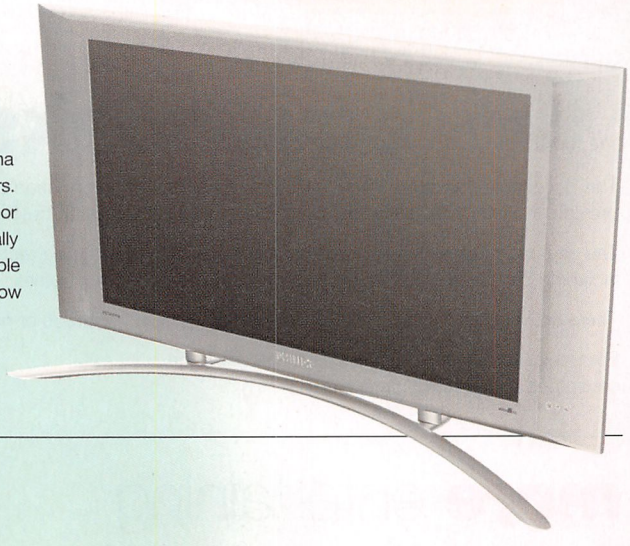
What Video & TV | March 2001

PHILIPS 32PF9964

32" Plasma Television £4999.95

The Philips ***32PF9964*** True Flat television features very advanced high definition plasma technology enabling very wide viewing angles, flicker free pictures and bright superb colours. Philips 100hz technology allied to Natural Motion solves the problem of objects judering or losing shape when they move quickly across the screen. Full Active Control automatically analyses the incoming signal and adjusts the key picture parameters giving the best possible picture at all times. In addition an ambient light sensor adjusts the picture according to how much light is in the room.

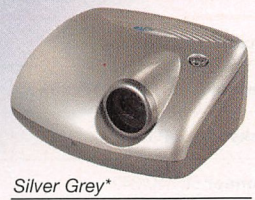
With a depth of only 9cm the 32PF9964 can be hung on the wall or table top mounted with the optional stand (as illustrated).



SIM2 Multimedia

HT200 DLP Projector £4999.95

The Home theatre market has experienced a major revolution, and the differences are evident. The leading player of this transformation is Grand Cinema, the new projection line based on Digital Micromirror Device™ by Texas Instruments. Grand Cinema has been designed completely by SIM2, the leading manufacturer in the Home Theatre market, specifically for home cinema and entertainment applications with a specific criteria in mind: the ultimate performance without compromises for a product that fulfils the requirements of the most demanding home theatre enthusiast.



*Silver Grey**

*Racing Red**

*Black Shadow**

Projector Selection

Sanyo PLV30 LCD	**£1999.95**
Sim 2 HT200DM DLP	**£6299.95**
Sim 2 HT250 DLP	**£6499.95**
Sony VPL HS1 LCD	**£1999.95**
Sony VPL VW11 LCD	**£4799.95**
Yamaha DPX1 DLP	**£6499.95**

0% Finance Option

see page fifteen for details

"It has been quite a year on the home-projection front, with not one but two projectors threatening to revolutionise the high-end home cinema scene. Our award goes to the most recent of these, the simply incredible SIM2 Grand Cinema ***HT200.*** Using Texas Instruments' DLP technology - which produces pictures via panels of minute mirrors riding on and controlled by a special processing chip - the HT200 produces the sort of contrast range and natural colours that we've only previously seen on CRT projectors - for a fraction of most CRTs' prices. It also looks beautiful in your living room, is easy to carry around to a mate's and set up when you get there, and, perhaps best of all, comes in a sealed unit design to keep damaging dust at bay. One of the most influential products we've ever seen." **What Video & TV | January 2001**

TOSHIBA MT3 LCD Projector £2299.95

"Once you've got the image looking its best - two or three minutes work at most - there are only a few features to familiarise yourself with, all accessed via a non-taxing onscreen menu system.

One of the main plus points of the MT1 was its contrast - but this isn't quite as dazzling on the ***MT3***. This isn't because it's worse, but because it hasn't improved as much as we would like. But we must temper this comment by adding that it's still very good compared with most non-CRT rivals.

Furthermore, from here on the news is almost uniformly good. Particularly eye-catching are the colours; they're among the most natural we've seen on an LCD projector, fully supporting Tosh's claim that the MT3 has been specifically designed for the consumer market." **What Video & TV | September 2001**

Pioneer PDP503HDE 50" Plasma Television £8499.95

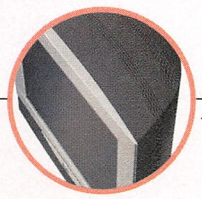
The new ***PDP503HDE*** plasma screen comes complete with a media receiver that has a built in analogue tuner. The tuner delivers terrestrial channels to the plasma screen in the same way as a standard television. The media receiver also allows the consumer to input an array of sources including set-top box, satellite, cable, DVD-Video, VCR, digital video camcorders, digital cameras, games consoles and computer signals up to wide XGA.

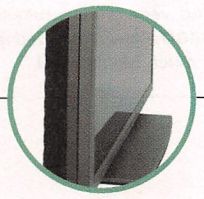
The amazingly thin screen of the PDP503HDE provides ultra-fine image details in movie screen proportions. The screen is perfectly flat, flicker free and viewable to an angle of 160 degrees horizontally and vertically and can be either wall-mounted or set on a table-top stand. The PDP503HDE is available in a stunning silver finish that seamlessly fits into design conscious environments.

Plasma Selection

Fujitsu PDS4229E 42"	from **£4499.95**
Loewe FL38 LCD TV 15"	from **£2249.95**
Panasonic TH37PW4B 37"	from **£4499.95**
Panasonic TH42PW4B 42"	from **£4999.95**
Panasonic TH50PW3B 50"	from **£9999.95**
Panasonic TX15LT2 15" LCD TV	**£1349.95**
Panasonic TX22LT2 22" LCD TV	**£2249.95**
Philips New 42" Model	from **£6499.95**
Pioneer PDP502MXE 50"	from **£6499.95**
Sony PFM42B1 42"	from **£6199.95**

Please Note: *Some products may not be available at all outlets.*
Advertisement valid until at least 13th December 2001, E&OE.





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SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

Multi Region DVD Player Selection

Arcam FMJ DV27	**£1599.95**
Denon DVD3300 DVD-Audio	**£649.95**
Onkyo DVS939	**£1999.95**
Pioneer DV340/343	**£199.95**
Pioneer DV545	**£349.95**
Pioneer DV737 (Black)	**£449.95**
Pioneer DV646A DVD-Audio	**£449.95**
Sony DVP-NS300	**£219.95**
Sony DVP-NS700V DVD/SACD	**£449.95**
Toshiba SD110E	**£179.95**
Toshiba SD210E	**£219.95**
Toshiba SD900E DVD-Audio	**£1049.95**

Sevenoaks Pricing Policy

see page fifteen for details

WINNER WHAT VIDEO & TV 2001 AWARDS

ARCAM DiVA

DV88 DVD Player £999.95

"Neither of them can rival the Arcam for CD replay, however. That this relatively small company can outclass such opposition is impressive indeed; the DV88 sounds more articulate and agile than other DVD rivals, delivering Eminem's Stan with genuine rhythmic swing. Fine details are crisply rendered too, with a strong sense of focus and accurate imaging. Arcam's own £400 does it better, but the *DV88* matches the £300 7SE CD player - and that's not bad going in our books.

Arcam's DV88 is a stonking DVD buy. It can't handle DVD-Audio (yet), but right now, when CD and DVD-Video rule, it makes perfect sense." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | May 2001

DENON DVD2800 Multi Region DVD Player £699.95

"It's reassuring to see that the Denon performs every bit as well as the ingredients might suggest. With the progressive scan output from an NTSC DTS sampler disc fed into a big-screen projector, the results are sensational. The Denon simply flattens the video efforts of most rivals in this price class, delivering an image that only a very select few machines - at any price - can compete with. Contrast is sensational, the smoothness of motion across the screen entirely natural, and the level of fine detail spectacular. Certainly our extended sessions with *Gladiator, Chicken Run* and the rest found our reviewing team entirely captivated by the quality on offer.

DVD Players
Best Buy £401-£800

After such an impressive performance picture wise the sound could have been a let down, but we're delighted to say that the DVD2800 keeps up its fine form, offering strong bass from its digital outputs, and plenty of flow and musicality when playing CDs... While far from cheap, this is a truly scintillating DVD player. Denon took its time before entering the fray with a truly in-house design, but it's been well worth the wait." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | September 2001

SONY DVP-NS900V SACD & Region 2 DVD Player £449.95

SUPER AUDIO CD

"Ultimately, the audio performance of this player is extremely impressive in relation to its price, and a clear step up from the £400 DVP-NS700V, which is the nearest point of comparison. However, this unit's video performance shows a sharper improvement still over the junior model, which in itself is no slouch. It is especially impressive via the RGB output, producing results that I found extremely difficult to fault." Home Cinema Choice | October 2001

***Super Audio CD** is a superior performance format, developed by Philips and Sony, the original inventors of the Compact Disc.*

New Dual Layer SACD Discs will facilitate a seamless transition to the benefits of the new format, although SACD is fully compatible with existing CD software.

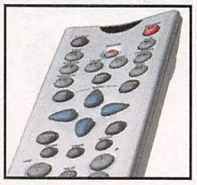
The very latest processing technology used in SACD allows recorded music to be reproduced at a much higher level.

PHILIPS

DVDR1000
DVD Recorder £1299.95

With the DVD format well established as a video source the natural progression is to offer a recordable version. Potentially the most effective of the recording formats available for home video archiving is the DVD+RW system from Philips.

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV



"With DVD Playback, pictures via either S-video or RGB are superb. There's an abundance of fine detail, and minimal background artefacting - even with tricky discs like Se7en on R2.

And the recordings? The top two modes (HQ and SP) are both superb. The only real difference between the modes is an increase in block noise during fast-moving scenes, and the appearance of more artefacting on areas of fine detail. Resoulution is excellent. Detail level surpasses analogue S-VHS, and there's a lack of fizz to boot. The LP and EP modes are roughly equivalent to VHS SP and LP respectively in terms of resoulution and presentaion... Audio is subjectively excellent in all modes, knocking VHS hi-fi into the proverbial cocked hat.

If you simply require a recorder that is able to make top-quality copies of broadcast and camcoreder material on a shiny optical disc, then the DVDR1000 is definitely worth considering."

What Video & TV | November 2001

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Awards 2001 BEST BUY

DVD Players
Best Buy up to £250

TOSHIBA

SD210E Region 2 DVD Player £179.95

This machine encapsulates Toshiba's determination to dominate the DVD world. Simply put, this is an entry-level player built and equipped to midprice player standards. Externally, it's neatly turned out, with a remarkably compact, 22.5cm-deep casing making it ideal for a TV stand shelf, but it's under the bonnet where things really begin to get interesting.

Setting-up is easy, thanks to decent on-screen graphics, and straight from the off, the SD210E delivers pictures that stun. Connected to our reference projector, it's clearly the best in this test, offering images with a truly three-dimensional, cinema-quality feel. Clarity is outstanding, edge definition rivals many in the £350 class, and colours look rich, the lovingly- restored (yet wonderfully '60s) tones of 2001: *A Space Odyssey* being a particular highlight. Use the RGB Scart and a widescreen TV, and you'll be every bit as impressed; for such sensible money, the level of performance is astonishing.

It's hard to find a flaw in this player: it plays a tune, is easy to use and delivers sensational pictures. In short, it's the best budget player yet." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | October 2001

Pioneer

DV444 Region 2 DVD Player £219.95

"Picture quality is excellent, producing outstanding images across a range of different movies and managing to get the very last levels of detail out of the disc. There's a number of fine tuning picture modes, should you need them, but straight out of the box the *DV444* is no less than perfect. Sound quality is top-notch, too, and the DV444 doubles impressively as a CD player as well as a DVD player.

If you're thinking about buying into the DVD dream or thinking of upgrading, the Pioneer DV444 is guaranteed to please. It's extremely cute, has easy-to-use controls and best of all, has spectacular picture performance."

Home Entertainment | Awards 2001

Region 2 DVD Player Selection

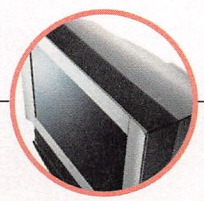
Cyrus DVD7	**£999.95**
Marantz DV4100 OSE	**£399.95**
Meridian 596	**£2349.95**
Pioneer DV340/343	**£169.95**
Pioneer DV646A DVD-Audio	**£399.95**
Pioneer DV737 (Black)	**£399.95**
Sony DVP-NS300	**£169.95**
Sony DVP-NS700V DVD/SACD	**£349.95**
TAG McLaren DVD32R	**£3999.95**
Toshiba SD110E	**£139.95**
Toshiba SD900E DVD-Audio	**£999.95**
Yamaha DVDS510	**£199.95**

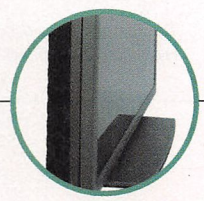
0% Finance Option

see page fifteen for details

Please Note: *Some products may not be available at all outlets. Advertisement valid until at least 13th December 2001, E&OE.*

• *Many **Region 2** DVD Players can be switched between the different regions by using a code on their remote control handset at no additional charge.*





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SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

AV Loudspeaker Selection

Acoustic Energy Aego 5 Package	**£449.95**
Definitive Technology Pro 80 Package	**£999.95**
Energy Take 5.2 Package	**£749.95**
Energy Encore Package	**£1299.95**
M&K K3 Package	**£1894.95**
M&K 750THX Select Package (Ex Stand)	**£2714.95**
Mission Cinema 72 Package	**£399.95**
Mission FS2AV NXT® Package (Grey)	**£599.95**
REL/Boston Q150 Sub/Sat Package	**£999.95**
REL Q201E Subwoofer	**£699.95**
REL Q400E Subwoofer (Black Grittex)	**£999.95**
REL Strata III Subwoofer (Wood)	**£749.95**
Ruark Vita 100 5.1 Package	**£1499.95**
Yamaha YST-SW320 Subwoofer	**£319.95**

Sevenoaks Pricing Policy

see page fifteen for details

KHT2005 Speaker Package £799.95

KEF

"KEF's KHT package is one of the most attractive sub/sat combinations we've come across. The five identical satellites are 20cm high, 13cm wide and 15cm deep; constructed from cast aluminium, they come complete with integral stands that can be rotated to function as neat wall brackets if required.

OK, so haw does it sound? Let's cut straight to it: the ***KHT2005*** is brilliant, delivering a quite sensational performance for a package of its type. The key is the quality of its midrange. First and foremost, it actually has a midrange (many sub/sat packages don't), which helps to give it character. You can hear vocal nuances and inflections, the movement of fingers on guitar strings or the impact of sticks on drums: it's all reassuringly hi-fi. The crossover between the subwoofer ant the satellites is sensitively handled too, ensuring that, for the main part, the stereo presentation - even with the vivid soundscape of Tubular Bells - is perfectly convincing and natural.

So, let's recap. The KEF KHT2005 is effortlessly stylish, very compact, sounds excellent with both music and movies, and costs a more than reasonable £800. It's superb; we can't really put it more clearly than that."

★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | June 2001

REL Q150E Subwoofer £499.95

"REL's tiny but potent Q150E will boost your sound without damaging your feng shui, keeping your ears and your eyes happy.

At 29x29x23cm it's easily tucked away, but you'll certainly know it's there, just ten minutes' tuning will give you top-notch precision, punch and agility, thanks to the rigid, sealed-box cabinet and high quality 25cm drive unit powered by an in-built 150W amp. It sounds absolutely spot-on from the off, with music getting bags of potent yet precise low-end to underpin the tunes. Movies thrill too, with little overhang and dynamics conveyed to the full. And as the Q150E can be connected using both line-level and speaker-level connections, as well as having twin sets of volume controls, you can set up different bass characteristics for use with music and movies. It's groundshakingly marvellous, really..." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

ENERGY Take 5 Speaker Package £599.95

"The Energy system is as easy on the ear as the eye, thanks to a commendably full balance. Both the Take 2s and Take 1 refute the conventional wisdom that satellites this small are inevitably bright and harsh, sounding fuller and more controlled than we'd ever have expected. Midrange punch is considerable too, enough to lend good impact and drive to the bullet-laden finale of *The 6th Day*. Most important, while the balance of the subwoofer is a far cry from the super-deep extension you'd get from a REL, it's meaty enough to fill in more than adequately below the satellites, It's also agile: the XL-S8 is articulate enough both to deliver sensible low midrange information - vital for orchestral scores and 'impact' effects - and to follow rhythms adequately.

Such attributes also pay dividends with music. The Take 2s could never be called truly 'hi-fi' in design: like all genuinely small speakers, they're too compromised in the midrange compared to standard cabinets. But they compensate with good agility, a smooth but not overly-dull top-end, and a fair degree of musicality. They're better with modern rock or electro music, where the emphasis is more on fun than realism. Orbital's boundabout techno on *The Altogether* is forceful and well-extended, while Ash's thrashing punk riffs are loud and proud yet well-controlled.

The Energy ***Take 5*** system surprised us. It may look small but it certainly doesn't sound it. Highly recommended."

★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | August 2001

AV Speaker Packages
Best Buy £501 to £800

DENON

AVR3802 Dolby Pro Logic II AV Receiver £799.95

"To begin with, we used soley five speakers. With *Saving Private Ryan*, the ***AVR3802*** sounds poised, potent and forceful, delivering a richly detailed surround soundfield across the front of the room. Impact effects, such as bullets and explosions, have fine authority and punch, whiles the steering speed - the movement of effects from front to back across the room - is exemplary. However, we suspect that you'll also want to explore the full seven-speaker potential it offers, and used to the max, the Denon really comes alive. The DTS-ES Discrete 6.1 mix of *Se7en* is awesome, with some thoroughly chilling details from the back of the room, while the pan of information on *Gladiator* transports you to the gory scenes in the arena in fine style.

Any chinks in the armour? Nothing notable. Even stereo reproduction is good, far better than is typical for most receivers of this type. And, as ever with a Denon receiver, the 40-preset RDS tuner is excellent... All-in-all this really is a belting buy. If you want every type of surround sound currently going, the Denon make great sense."
★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

ONKYO TX-DS595 Dolby Pro Logic II AV Receiver £449.95

"Onkyo's range of multichannel receivers has improved with each passing year, and the ***TX-DS595*** is the firm's strongest offering yet. It includes Dolby Pro-Logic II backed up by Dolby Digital and DTS 5.1 decoding, coupled to Onkyo's oft-used Cinema Re-Eq mode. Derived from Lucasfilm THX, this is intended to deliver a smoother, more cinematic sound by taming down the brighter excesses of a soundtrack.

The Onkyo is constructed to a high standard and features ample power, and although the facia is stark it is impressively solid. The unit is easy to configure too, thanks to the large, multi-jog dial and spacious display window.

Once given some time to warm up, the Onkyo settles into a very assured stride. In common with some larger THX-certified amps, it exudes a controlled, composed air, dealing with even massive volumes with effortless poise.

This is a very capable receiver indeed. It blends strong all-round performance with a high standard of specification and usability, and it's built to last." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | July 2001

YAMAHA RX-V620RDS AV Receiver £399.95

"Another year, another AV winner for Yamaha. Last year the DSP-A5; this year it's followed on to the rostrum by the company's ***RX-V620RDS***. As the last three letters suggest, an RDS tuner is built-in: what we have here is the Supertest-winning DSP-AX620 turned into an even better receiver. With a respectable 5x90W output from the power amp and the same 32-bit DSP chipset as the £1300 AX2, this Yamaha creates a very impressive spectacle, with an accurate and rapid surround effects creating a soundfield that makes your room seem bigger than it actually is. Multichannel music on DVD-Audio is well-served and stereo pretty fine, too." Nice one. ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

AV Amplifier & Receiver Selection

Arcam AVR200 AV Receiver - Dolby Pro Logic II		**£799.95**
Denon AVR1602 AV Receiver - Dolby Pro Logic II		**£329.95**
Denon AVR1802 AV Receiver - Dolby Pro Logic II		**£449.95**
Denon AVC-A10SE AV Amplifier		**£999.95**
Denon AVC-A1SE AV Amplifier		**£2299.95**
Meridian 568 AV Processor		**£3599.95**
Onkyo TX-DS696 AV Receiver		**£849.95**
Marantz SR4200 AV Receiver - Dolby Pro Logic II		**£299.95**
Onkyo TX-DS989 AV Receiver		**£2749.95**
Rotel RSX972 AV Receiver		**£949.95**
TAG McLaren AV32R AV Processor		**£2299.95**
Yamaha DSPA-X620 AV Amplifier		**£359.95**
Yamaha DSP-E800 AV Processor		**£299.95**

0% Finance Option

see page fifteen for details

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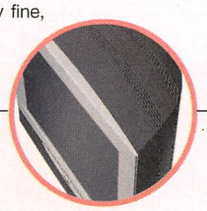

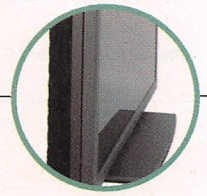

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SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

LINN

Classik K CD Receiver £999.95

The Classik K is an alternative to the sound and looks of mass market compact systems. Designed to be useful throughout the home, the Classik is simple and stylish with all the advanced features needed to satisfy the most demanding hi-fi enthusiast or discriminating music lover.

The Classik K combines an extensive and flexible control system, high quality CD, Tuner, and powerful Amplifier, capable of driving any Loudspeakers, in a single, compact package and is available in a choice of colours.

"Since the Scottish company added a tuner to the amp/CD player, mouths have gaped even wider in appreiciation. The addition of colour options panders to the publics's tast for kit to match their interior design, but it doesn't just look lovely in the lounge: the ***Classik*** sounds simply marvellous. Boasting fine impact and drive, it retains its grip even as it thumps out rock and dance tracks. Ask it to play quite acoustic music and its smooth, liquid presentation impresses still further. The Classik offers the performance you'd expect from hi-quality separates in one lovely package - this is a very superior product." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

DENON

D-M30 CD Receiver £229.95
SC-M50 Speakers £69.95

"Denon's gorgeous ***D-M30*** has a fine pedigree - and a record of sucess. Its forebear the D-M3 kept impressing us with its balance of good looks and great sound, winning two What Hi-Fi? Awards on the trot. Now the latest generation takes home a Product of the Year gong two years in a row. On its own merits, too, as this is much more than a rehash of the D-M3. Upgraded audio circuitry, improved power supply and the Mission-designed speakers all improve the package. The sound is superb, well-balanced and weighty... Its a big system in a very cute box." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

Optional Recorders:

- CDR-M30 CD-RW Recorder
- DMD-M30 MiniDisc Recorder
- DRR-M30 Cassette Deck

CD System Solutions

Cyrus Quattro ex speakers	**£849.95**
Denon DM50 inc SCM50	**£349.95**
Denon DF100 inc SCM10	**£599.95**
Marantz Eclipse 55 ex speakers	**£1299.95**
TAG McLaren Aphrodite ex spks	**£2994.95**
Teac Reference 100 inc LS100	**£299.95**
Teac Reference 500 ex speakers	**£699.95**
Yamaha Pianocraft E150 inc spks	**£249.95**

Sevenoaks Pricing Policy
see page fifteen for details

TEAC MISSION

Reference 300 System
M71 Speakers £599.95

Reference 300 "Teac's Reference 300 system is an absolute belter. The company's Reference series has won lots of awards and many admirers in the past, and the 300 range at £200 less than the bigger 500 series, is no disappointment. Your £600 buys you everything but speakers: an amplifier, tuner, CD player and cassette deck... As beutifully built as we've come to expect from Teac, this system delivers the goods with style." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

M71 "With silky smooth treble, staggeringly refined detail and a bass that digs deep and punches hard, they're little short of miraculous when you consider the price... The Mission M71s are truly exceptional speakers for the money." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2000

Please Note: *Mission M71 are not available at all outlets. Kef Cresta 2 Speakers available as an alternative at no additional cost.*

AV Amps/Receivers
Best Buy £400

ENERGY LOUDSPEAKERS
MUSICAL TRUTH™

marantz

DV4100 OSE Region 2 DVD Player
SR4200 AV Receivier and
Take 5 Speaker Package £1099.95

DV4100 OSE "But the clincher is the way the DV4100 OSE plays music: only at the very top end of the spectrum have we heard a DVD player so able to convey the draw of a bow on a string, or make so fine a job of voices. So you get a DVD-Video player as good as most in its class and a performance you'd expect from a £300 dedicated. At £400 it's a bargain." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

SR4200 "This Marantz entry-level multichannel receiver has just about everything: a 50-preset tuner, great chioce of decoding modes (Dolby Pro-Logic II, Dolby Digital, and DTS 5.1), four digital and seven analogue inputs, two digital outputs, 24-bit/96kHz DACs and a full set of preouts. It lacks six-channel inputs for SACD or DVD-Audio, but if you're just into movies and music, the SR4200 is a first-rate performer: an ample 5x70W per channel thrills with gutsy and dynamic sound, and the sparkling stereo is the best we've heard at this price. A breathtaking product." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

Take 5 "The Energy Take 5 system surprised us: it may look small, but it certainly doesn't sound it. The Canadian specialist company designed it to be as compact as possible - each speaker is just 17cm tall - but the sonic results are in no way titchy. Modest 9cm midrange drivers are coupled with a relatively substantial 19mm tweeter for clarity and focus, and the subwoofer totes a potent 100W internal amplifier coupled to a forward firing 20cm bass driver. A commendably full balance ensues, refuting the conventional wisdom that small satellites sound harsh and the midrange punch is considerable. It's agile enough to deliver sensible low-range information while following rhythms properly, while the subwoofer is meaty enough to fill the space below the satellites. Good things do come in small packages." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

AV Speaker Packages
Best Buy £501 to £800

ONKYO
DR-S2.0 DVD & AV Receiver £949.95

"In the crucial performance test, the ***DR-S2.0*** proved to be a real treat. Visuals are stunning, looking radient and bursting with full-bodied colour. Detail is also reproduced superbly and edges are razor-sharp. *The Beach* (R2) proved a perfect vehicle for the unit to show its worth. The beautiful Thai settings look glorious; picture performance like this reminds you why DVD was created in the first place.

The Dolby Digital soundtrack is satisying at normal listening levels, but crank it up and hear the puny amps struggle to stir up much of a rumble. The Pro-Logic decoder handles soundtracks very well, but the rear channel is fairly weak.

It seems the worst thing about the DR-S2.0 is the price; at a wallet-busting £900, you could buy an AV receiver with better amps as well as a good DVD player. But you might just be swayed by the amazing picture performance, not to mention the drop-dead gorgeous design." Total DVD | May 2001

DENON
ADV-700 DVD & AV Receiver £749.95

The new Denon ***ADV-700*** offers an elegant, simple and stylish approach to the one-box audio visual solution. Complimenting any living space, the ADV700 is equipped with the latest in surround sound technologies such as DTS, Dolby Digital and the new Dolby Pro Logic II. This new format reproduces 5.1 channel surround sound from a variety of 2 channel sources such as CD and Television broadcasts. In addition, Dolby Pro Logic encoded software such as Video and Laser disc can be enjoyed in simulated 5.1 channel surround sound rejuvenating those forgotten favourites.

Other key features include, a 2-channel Virtual Surround mode that enables space conscious users to enjoy the simulated effect of Dolby Digital without installing the necessary speakers to reproduce true 5.1 sound. For convenience the ADV700 incorporates a Quick Set-up feature allowing the user to set the system to either 5.1 channel or 2 channel playback and then in turn set the individual distance settings automatically.

Internally the amplifier section delivers 35 watts per channel and comes with a built-in 40 preset, RDS AM/FM tuner whilst the DVD player is fully compatible with both CD-R and CD-RW software and discs copied with MP3 files.

DVD System Solutions

Denon AVF100 ex speakers	**£699.95**
Marantz Eclipse 70 ex speakers	**£1499.95**
Pioneer NS-DV77/88	**£629.95**
Sony DAV-S300	**£469.95**
Sony DAV-S500	**£539.95**
Teac Reference 350AV ex speakers	**£699.95**
Teac Reference 550AV ex speakers	**£849.95**
Yamaha HTiB40 Ex DVD	**£399.95**

0% Finance Option ***see page fifteen for details***

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SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

Amplifier Selection

Arcam DiVA A65 Plus Integrated Amplifier	**£349.95**
Arcam DiVA A75 Plus Integrated Amplifier	**£449.95**
Arcam FMJ A22 Integrated Amplifier	**£999.95**
Linn Kolector Pre Amplifier	**£494.95**
Linn LK85 Power Amplifier	**£494.95**
Cyrus ACA7.5 Pre Amplifier	**£699.95**
Cyrus Smart Power Power Amplifier	**£549.95**
Marantz PM4200 Amplifier	**£159.95**
Musical Fidelity A3 Pre Amplifier	**£999.95**
Musical Fidelity A3 Power Amplifier	**£999.95**
Musical Fidelity NuVista M3 Integrated Amplifier	**£2974.95**

0% Finance Option *see page fifteen for details*

Caspian MKII CD Player £894.95

"If you can stretch to it, though, Roksan's Caspian the player to go for. Yes, it's the most expensive here, but no rival can touch it when it comes to bringing music to life - regardless of genre. And that's what hi-fi is all about." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | May 2001

A3 CD Player Integrated Amplifier £799.95 £849.95

MUSICAL FIDELITY

A3 CD Player "OK, so not everyone will be drawn to the styling, but when it comes to turning on the sonic fireworks, few players come even close at this price... A class act and a worthy winner." What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2000

A3 Amplifier "The A3 does a wonderful trick of conveying a great romantic sweep of music while at the same time delivering as much internal detail as anyone could possibly want... This is an amplifier capable of performing well beyond its price. We guarantee you won't be disappointed." What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2000

MONITOR AUDIO Gold Reference Series

GR10 Speakers Ex-Stands £799.95

"We like the GR10s a lot: Monitor Audio has long been making beautifully upmarket standmounters, and this new model is no disappointment." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | August 2001

GR20 Speakers £1499.95

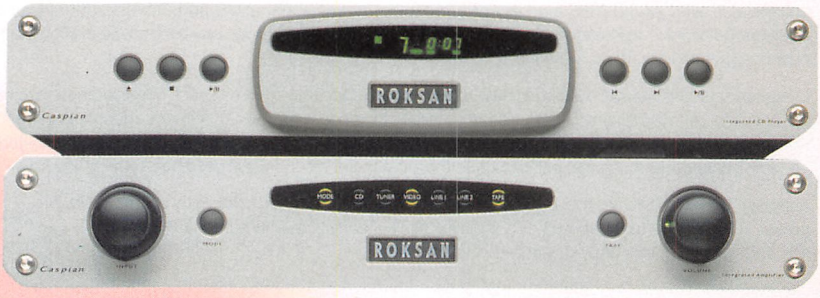
"Monitor Audio has made an immensely accomplished pair of speakers in the *Gold Reference 20.* In sonic and physical terms there is little to criticise; even the price is highly competitive. We have no choice but to recommend them highly." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | March 2001

ROKSAN

Founded in 1985, Roksan's objective has always been to bring high-end specialist hi-fi to every home. Today with the Caspian range, that goal has been fully achieved.

Caspian MKII Amplifier £794.95

"The Caspian has been around for a few years, but Roksan has developed it to a point where it now leads the class in all-round terms. In specific areas other amps equal it, but overall none can beat its combination of clarity, timing and dynamics. The Caspian is a worthy winner." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | February 2001



WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Awards 2001 BEST BUY

CD Players
Best Buy £501-£800

CYRUS

CD7 CD Player £799.95
7 Integrated Amplifier £699.95

Cyrus 7 CD "This player is just as convincing with thundering orchestral strings and brass, making a great job of Bernstein's recording of *Mahler's Symphony No 5* and it has the definition to unravel the instrumental strands in the Kronos Quartet's disc of Phillip Glass string quartets... It's that that makes it special - and this is a very special player indeed." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | November 1999

Cyrus 7 Amplifier "This is a fabulous amplifier. It's fast, punchy and has bags of power on tap but crucially delivers huge sackfuls of subtlety when the music requires. Some of the other amplifiers in this group may be better with particular genres of music but as an all-rounder it takes some beating." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | November 1999

LINN

Genki CD Player £994.95
Majik Line Amplifier £694.95
Katan Speakers Maple £634.95

Genki "Tempting though it is to think of Genki as a Glaswegian word, it's actually Japanese, and the nearest definitions we could find involve vitality, vigour and spirit. And used as adjectives, these words go a long way towards describing the sound of the Genki, which always manages to communicate the music first and foremost, and let the rest of the hi-fi thing look after itself.

It's a very well-thought-out player, too, from its clear and simple control layout to the provision of four sets of analogue outputs, two at fixed level, and two with level control. Completing the package is a 24-bit Burr-Brown DAC and Pacific Microsonics HDCD filter.

Few owners will worry about all that stuff, however, as they'll be too busy enjoying the way Genki plays music, its purity of tone and sense of drama on Mozart's *Don Giovanni* being a fine example of its talent.

By any standards this is a superb player, and not just one for the army of Linn enthusiasts." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | March 2000

Majik The Linn Majik is a sophisticated control amplifier complete with on-board stereo power amplifiers. A core entry-level product for powerful and flexible control of hi-fi, video or multi-room installations. "Sneaky" add-on modules expand its functions. It can accomodate many source components. The Majik is available in two versions: The 'Phono' version has five line-level inputs and one Moving Magnet phono input and the 'Line-level' version has six line-level inputs.

The ***Katan*** loudspeaker is an attractive, compact, two-way bass reflex loudspeaker. The Katan offers pitch accurate sound quality with substantial power handling, and it outperforms the similarly-sized and award-winning Tukan.

Speaker Selection

Acoustic Energy Aesprit 300	**£399.95**
B&W DM303	**£179.95**
B&W DM601S3	**£249.95**
Cyrus CLS50 (Black)	**£449.95**
KEF Q3	**£399.95**
Mission M71	**£129.95**
Monitor Audio Silver 8i	**£699.95**
Ruark Epilogue II	**£344.95**
Wharfedale Diamond 8.1	**£119.95**

B&W

The CDM™NT series from B&W combines the unbeatable sound purity of their highly acclaimed Nautilus 800 Series and the classic looks of their predecessors, the CDM SE. Complete in both looks and sound quality, this is one of B&W's finest loudspeaker ranges to date. The CDM™NT Series is available in a choice of beautifully finished real wood veneers.

Loudspeakers
Best Buy £601-£1000

CDM ™1NT £749.95

"Here's a great example of trickle-down engineering, in that all of the technology of B&W's £1400 Nautilus 805s has been transfered to the CDM 1NTs... The CDM 1NTs are superbly built for their class. Their insight and resolution are simply terrific, ensuring levels of precision and clarity no rival in their class can match." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

CDM NT Series:
CDM 7NT £1249.95, CDM 9NT £1799.95
CDM CNT Centre £399.95
CDM SNT Surround £749.95

Sevenoaks Pricing Policy

see page fifteen for details

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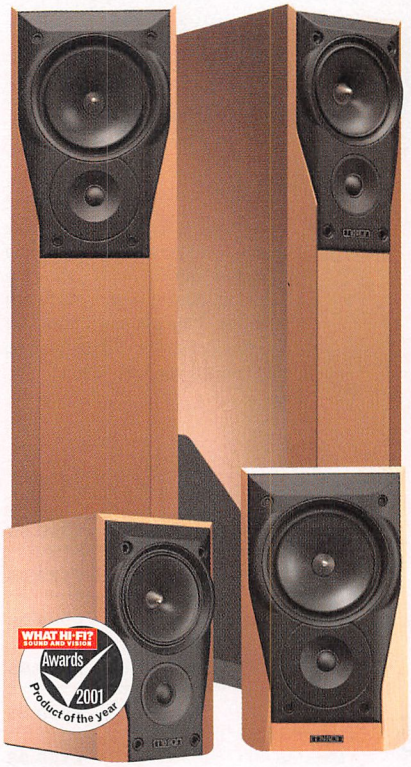
SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

CD Selection

Arcam DiVA CD92T	**£849.95**
Arcam FMJ CD23	**£1099.95**
Linn Ikemi	**£1949.95**
Marantz CD5000	**£149.95**
Marantz CD6000 OSE LE	**£299.95**
Meridian 588	**£1949.95**
Musical Fidelity NuVista 3D	**£2999.95**
Marantz CD17Ki Signature MKII	**£1199.95**
Sony SCD-XA333ES SACD	**£1099.95**
Sony CDP-XE570	**£119.95**

0% Finance Option

see page fifteen for details



DiVA CD72T CD Player £399.95
DiVA A85 Integrated Amplifier £749.95

ARCAM

DiVA CD72 "The CD72 will have you jumping out of your seat from the very first notes. Both powerful and punchy, it delivers every ounce of air and detail present from detailed midrange to smmoth, singing treble. Sometime a product comes along that sets new standards..." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

DiVA A85 "You'll have realised by now that we rather like this amp. It took us completely by surprise, and further strengthens Arcam's already impressive product range... The A85 is superb, and we can't wait to put it up against its peer in a group test." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | March 2001

MISSION

78 Series

782 bases its performance on a 165mm Nomex bass unit fitted to a reflex enclosure ensuring excellent low frequency extension from a graceful and compact cabinet. The ***783*** houses a larger 200mm bass unit with massive motor system, capable of floor shaking, yet tightly controlled low frequency extension. Both use Keraform midrange drivers for outstanding clarity and midrange detail coupled to superb dynamic range together with Mission's silk dome tweeter.

The ***780*** and ***781*** are the pinnacle of Mission's research into creating a three dimensional soundstage, extensive bandwidth and dynamic range from the smallest possible cabinet dimensions. The ***780*** is massive in its sonic capabilities. Its 130mm Keraform bass unit is carefully matched to a novel reflex enclosure for full bodied bass extension, the qualities of Keraform produce a dynamic and ultra detailed midrange. In the ***781*** a 165mm Keraform driver takes advantage of a larger cabinet to extend bass performance and increase efficiency whilst maintaining that superb midband transparency and finely detailed treble.

780 "Versatile and with a sound that works well with a wide variety of hi-fi kit, these speakers were worthy of this title last year, and this year have achieved the tough task of making it the double." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

marantz®

CD6000 Ki Signature CD Player £449.95
PM6010 Ki Signature Amplifier £349.95

CD6000 Ki Signature "The result is a player of real power and grace, and one that sounds dynamic, exciting and fresh. Rhythms are tight and clean while the live atmosphere of discs is conveyed with a real 'you are there' feeling. Even massive scale and weight isn't beyond the Marantz: it delivers all the bass your amp and speakers can handle without ever drowning out the high stuff. The audiophile bargain of the Nineties is back, and it's even better!." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2000

PM6010 Ki Signature "Yes, this is the most expensive amplifier in this group, but provided you like its bright yet weighty, detailed yet wide-open sound, it's still something special." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | September 2001

Please Note: *Some products may not be available at all outlets.*
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PRO-JECT

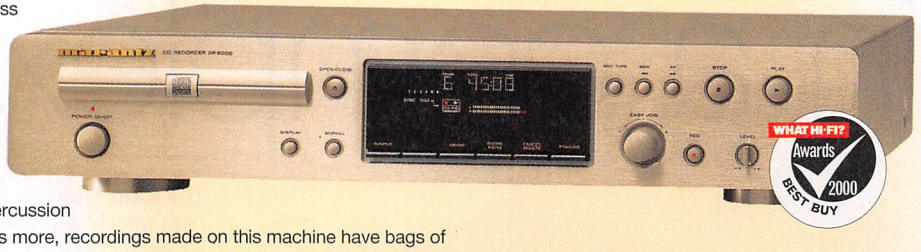
Debut II Turntable £109.95

"The original Debut turntable romped away with a Product of the Year Award in 1999, and the MKII version continues the extremely good work. It's a simple affair, that's easy to set up, but don't let the price fool you - it sounds a whole lot more expensive than that. This is a fine turntable, and it clearly reveals the benefits of listening to vinyl, with a rich and detailed soundstage, and a good dynamic response. It's available in six funky colours, so you should find one to suit your decor, and at just a smidge over £100, you can have no excuse not to keep that old vinyl collection in employment for a good few years yet." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2000

*Selected outlets are **Project Turntable Centres***
***Colour Options** are available at additional cost*

marantz®
DR6000 CD Recorder £349.95

"Most CD recorders make excellent copiers but are less than brilliant as plain CD players. Not so this Marantz: the DR6000 is a recorder you can also use as your main CD player, using your exsisting machine as a source for recording, for unless you have a very good machine in the £400+ league, chances are the Marantz is going to outperform it.



Whether playing its own recording or standard CDs, the DR6000 sounds big, confident and highly detailed, delivering a sound with real presence and few sonic foibles. Fast rhythms are delivered with terrific conviction, and the way the Marantz digs out detail of percussion and brass instuments knows no rival at the price. What's more, recordings made on this machine have bags of punch and impact, sounding virtually identical to the original discs.

The work that has gone into making the Marantz a good CD player has resulted in a fine recorder that also earns its keep as a system upgrade. No, it's not the least expensive recorder around, but it's one of the best, and worth every penny." ★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2000

VideoLogic
DRX-601ES Digital Tuner £349.95

"New name, new format, new winner: the VideoLogic story is as simple as that. The £299 DRX-601E digital tuner came out of nowhere to establish the firm as a major player in the digital tuner market. With this upgrade, VideoLogic goes one step further: it's still a DRX-601E at heart, but quite apart from the sleek silver styling and sexy blue LEDs it now has a better, white-on-blue display, and what the company calls 'Psycho-acoustic Compensation' - a form of signal processing designed to make the tuner sound less digital.

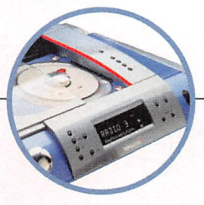
And it works: the ***DRX-601ES*** has a presentation that's rich, clean and extremely informative. Bass is big and powerful, while the midband and treble are well controlled. The style alone would justify the slight price rise; the sound quality makes it a Product of the Year."

★★★★★ What Hi-Fi? | Awards 2001

Turntables, Tuners and Recorders

Denon TU260L MKII Tuner	**£119.95**
Linn LP12/Basik/Akito Turntable	**£1749.95**
Michell Gyro SE Turntable inc RB300	**£974.95**
Pioneer MJ-D508 MiniDisc	**£179.95**
Pioneer PDR609 CD Recorder	**£199.95**
Project Debut Phono Turntable	**£139.95**
Sony ST-D777ES AM/FM/DAB Tuner	**£449.95**
Sony MDS-JE770 Mini Disc	**£229.95**
Yamaha KX393 Cassette Deck	**£119.95**
Yamaha KX580SE Cassette Deck	**£199.95**
Videologic DRX-601E DAB Tuner	**£299.95**

Sevenoaks Pricing Policy
see page fifteen for details



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The **Linn Classik K** - the performance you would expect from high quality separates in a single attractive box. ***Page seven.***

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sevenoaks sound & vision

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VINYL BEST BUYS

up to £1000

1 **Pro-ject Debut Phono** £140
2 **Rega P3** £298
3 **Michell Gyro SE** £829
4 **Audio Note TT1** £725

over £1000

1 **Michell Orbe** £1995
2 **Linn LP12/Valhalla** £1200
3 **Wilson Benesch The Full Circle** £1995
4 **Roksan Xerxes X** £1300

KEY: Speeds 33⅓rpm for LPs, 45rpm for singles. A few offer 78rpm but very old discs are best played with a dedicated cartridge.
Operation Automatic and semi-automatic turntables lift the arm on reaching the end of a record, but sound quality suffers. The best-sounding turntables are manual.
Arm Is there one, or is it just a motor unit?
Cartridge Is one provided as part of the package?
Drive How is the platter driven? Belt drive offers the best isolation from motor noise.
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £5000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS				
				SPEEDS	OPERATION	ARM	CARTRIDGE	DRIVE
Audio Note TT1/Arm One/IQ1	725	★★★★★ Nov 01	Affordable, well built and sounds excellent. Your records will take on a new lease of life.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Audio Note TT2+Arm 2+I/O1	2393	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Extremely low output from the cartridge so you'll need the £2499 transformer. Great sound	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Avid Volvere	2000	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Tested with an SME V arm and Dynavector D17 D2 II cartridge. Deserves your attention.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Avid Acutus	4995	★★★★★ Oct 99	This steel wheel cruises effortlessly through everything from jazz to rock.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Clearaudio Solution	800	★★★☆☆ Jun 99	Distinctive looks with frosted acrylic platter, but its rivals highlight its weaknesses.	33	-	No	No	Belt
Clearaudio Champion/RB250ST	930	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Great-looking deck that performs well and is easily upgradeable.	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Clearaudio Evolution/Tang/Sig	2860	★★★★☆ May 00	Fashioned from transparent acrylic - delivers music with supreme clarity and crispness.	33	A	Yes	No	Belt
Dual CS 435-1	180	★★★☆☆ Feb 00	For a no-hassle automatic turntable this should suit, but not if sound is paramount.	33/45	A	Yes	No	Belt
Dual CS 505-4UK/OM10	290	★★★☆☆ Apr 01	The convenience of semi-automatic operation but it lacks the ability to match its rivals.	33/45	S	Yes	Yes	Belt
Linn Sondek LP12/Basik	1100	★★★★☆ Jul 93	Entry-level legend sounds extraordinarily persuasive. Can be upgraded cost-effectively.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Linn Sondek LP12/Valhalla	1200	★★★★★ Sep 95	Magnificently enjoyable at a reasonably sensible price - just feel the superb engineering.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Linn Sondek LP12/Lingo	1750	★★★★★ Awd 94	Best turntable in Awards 1994, this classic has a warmth and faithfulness few can match.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Michell Gyro SE	829	★★★★★ Jun 99	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Beautifully engineered and has a wonderfully fluid sound.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Michell Gyrodec	1043	★★★★☆ Feb 94	Eye-catcher which - with QC power supply - performs at a level hard to beat at the price.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Michell Orbe	1995	★★★★★ Jun 96	Analogue's golden age? Listen to the Orbe, and even fans of CD must admit it's true.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
NAD 533/Goldring Elektra	220	★★★★☆ Apr 01	Solid piece of kit and fine value for money but can't offer the thrills others deliver.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Origin Live Ultra Kit+OL/OEM250S	722	★★★★★ Nov 01	Once assembled it sounds fantastic - a thoroughly purist deck in all respects.	33,45	Man	Yes	No	Belt
Pro-ject Debut II/Ortofon OMB5E	110	★★★★★ Aug 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. So accomplished that it sounds much more expensive.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject Debut Phono/OMB 5E	140	★★★★★ Sep 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Award winning Debut with a built-in phono stage.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject 2/Ortofon 510 II	250	★★★★★ Aug 00	Highly-engineered, the Pro-ject offers superb resolution and impressive timing.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject RPM Four/Orto 510 Mk2	300	★★★★☆ Apr 01	Offers remarkable value and a fast, fluid sound for just £300. The cartridge lets it down.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject Perspective	750	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Solidly engineered package that looks great and sounds good.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Rega P2/Bias	198	★★★★★ Apr 01	Superbly built product that sounds better than anything else we've heard at this price.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Rega P3	298	★★★★★ Aug 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Much of the finesse of decks that cost twice as much.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Rega Planar 25	619	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Great sounding product that maintains Rega's tradition of simple yet effective turntables.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Rega Planar 9	1698	★★★★☆ Sep 95	The solidity of its performance makes it an audition must for top-notch vinyl buyers.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Reson Rota 1/Reson Reta/Etile	3100	★★★★★ May 00	Terrific if you buy for your ears rather than your eyes - excellent punch and precision.	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Roksan Xerxes X	1300	★★★★★ Aug 96	Ten years on, the revamped Xerxes sounds even better than the original design.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Sherwood PS9700	80	★★★☆☆ Feb 00	Easy to set up and it doesn't cost much, but the sound is nothing to write home about.	33/45	S	Yes	No	Belt
SME Model 20/2	3403	★★★★☆ Sep 96	The precision makes it worth seeking out but for gutsy rock you may be tempted elsewhere.	3/45/78	M	Yes	No	Belt
SOTA Comet Sup/RB300/Plat	995	★★★☆☆ Nov 01	Offers an attractive sonic performance, but finish and cosmetics are below par.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
SOTA Millennia S750/Grah	11995	★★★★☆ May 00	Fabulous-sounding deck that despite its looks brings out the magic of any LP collection.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Technics SL1200 Mk2	400	★★★★★ Oct 00	Most commonly used DJ deck in the world - hard to beat bomb-proof build and reliability.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Direct
Technics SL1210 M3D	400	★★★☆☆ Nov 01	Legend in the world of DJs but not so successful in less sweaty domestic surroundings.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Direct
Thorens TD166VI/Rega 250	400	★★★★☆ Awd 93	Specially tweaked UK version with the excellent Rega arm. Orderly and detailed.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
VPI HW-19 Junior MkII	750	★★★★☆ Nov 01	Powerful performer coupled to well-finished build, but it can't quiet beat the best.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt

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Power P183-211
Speakers P219-229
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CASSETTE RECORDERS BEST BUYS

(Single)

1 **Yamaha KX-393** £140
2 **Yamaha KX-580SE** £250
3 **TEAC V-1050** £180

(Twin-Deck)

1 **Denon DRW-585** £200

If you need a twin-deck model for tape-to-tape recording, this is the one to buy. Well engineered and offers superior sound, too.

KEY: Decks How many decks does the machine have? There are some single-deck recorders, but twin-decks are very popular.

Heads The minimum for any recorder is two: one to erase the tape, the other to record, but three-head decks allow recordings to be monitored as they are made.

Dolby What kind of noise reduction is there? Dolby B and the more advanced Dolby C are usual, while Dolby S gives enhanced hiss reduction and better sound.

Calibration/Fine Bias The calibration system (usually automated) found on some decks dials in the deck to the tape in use. Fine bias allows the treble to be adjusted.

Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £200

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS				
					DECKS	HEADS	DOLBY	CALIBRATION	HEADPHONES
Denon DRW-585	200	★★★★★	Aug 01	Cracker of a twin tape recorder with top quality copies and great sound.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	No	Yes
JVC TD-R472 BK	200	★★★☆☆	Apr 99	Disappointing with both prerecorded tape and copying as bass lacks attack.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
JVC TD-X372 BK	200	★★☆☆☆	Dec 96	Best with home recordings but rather lacklustre with prerecorded material. Looks dull.	3	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Kenwood KXF-W4030	160	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Decent enough double-deck machine and offers fair value for money.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Pioneer CT-S250	150	★★★★☆	Aug 97	Sensibly-priced and capable of good results. But some rivals offer as much for less.	3	2	B,C	No	No
Pioneer CT-W606DR	200	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Good budget buy for copying from tape-to-tape, dynamics and detail remain faithful.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	No
TEAC V-1050	180	★★★★★	Sep 98	Great price for a three-head deck and everything a home recording fan could ask for.	1	3	B/C/HXPro	No	Yes
Technics RS-BX501	150	★★★☆☆	Sep 98	Prerecorded tapes sound great but recordings are inferior to the original signal.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Technics RS-AZ6	200	★★★☆☆	Oct 96	Playback half is very fine but recording lets it down, making an average-rated product.	3	3	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Yamaha KX-393	140	★★★★★	Sep 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Easy to use and produces excellent results.	1	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Yamaha KX-493	180	★★★★★	Apr 99	A purist deck delivering great performance for not much money.	1	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes

£201–£700

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT		WE SAID...	THE FACTS				
					DECKS	HEADS	DOLBY	CALIBRATION	HEADPHONES
NAD 613	230	★★★★☆	Dec 95	With the right tape, a match for any hi-fi medium. It captivates with recordings too.	1	2	B/C/HXPro	No	Yes
NAD 616	300	★★★★☆	Feb 96	Highly recommended in Awards 1996. Makes high quality recordings.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	No	No
Pioneer CT-W806DR	300	★★★★☆	Oct 97	Great fun and innovative. Highly recommended in the Awards 1997.	3	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	No
Sony TCK-A6ES	650	★★★★★	Jun 96	Highly recommended in the Awards 1996. Built like a truck with a 'must have' sound.	1	3	B/C/S/HXPro	Man	Yes
TEAC V-6030S	550	★★★★★	Jun 97	A tweaker's deck which rewards with remarkably faithful copies.	2	3	B/C/S/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Yamaha KX-580SE	250	★★★★★	Aug 01	Sets the pace in the affordable analogue recording world. Quality copies and good sound.	1	2	B/C/S/HXPro	Auto	Yes

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DIGITAL RECORDERS BEST BUYS

CD-R

1 **Pioneer PDR-609** £280
2 **Harman Kardon CD-R30** £590
3 **Marantz DR6000** £400
4 **Marantz DR-17** £1500
5 **Denon CD-RW1500** £500

MiniDisc

1 **Pioneer MJ-D508** £200
2 **Sony MDS-JA333ES** £650
3 **Sony MDS-JE770** £260
4 **Denon DMD-1000** £300
5 **Yamaha MDX-596** £230

KEY: Sampling rate converter Both CD-R/RW and MiniDisc decks record at the same sampling frequency as CD, ie 44.1kHz. Here we indicate if there's a sampling rate converter for use with other digital sources, such as digital radio tuners.
Format What kind of recorder is it? Currently the mainstream choice is between MiniDisc (MD), CD-Recordable (CD-R), CD-Rewritable (CD-RW) and Digital Audio Tape (DAT). Expect to see more machines also offering Hard Disc recording (HD), or a HD/CD-RW mix, in the near future.
Inputs/outputs A digital input allows sources such as CD to be recorded; output delivers digital data to a D/A converter or digital recorder. Line inputs are for analogue sources.
O = OPTICAL; C = COAXIAL
Award winner ★★★★★ **Supertest winner** ★★★★★

UP TO £1500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	WE SAID...	THE FACTS				
				SAMPLING RATE CONVERTER	FORMATS	INPUTS	OUTPUTS	PORTABLE
Denon DMD-1000	300	★★★★☆ Nov 99	Solid and good quality recorder that makes respectable copies.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	O/L	No
Denon CDR-1000	400	★★★☆☆ Nov 00	Fundamentally a good machine and never dull, but it lacks some subtlety and control.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O	C/O	No
Denon CDR-W1500	500	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Twin-tray machine that can play HDCD discs. But it's a better recorder than player.	Yes	CD-R	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Harman-Kardon CD-R20	499	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Double-disc design - copies are first rate, but playback of CDs is poor.	Yes	CD-R/CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Harman-Kardon CD-R30	589	★★★★★ Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Easy to use, makes excellent copies and plays CDs as well.	Yes	CD-R/CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Hitachi RMD 100	180	★★★★☆ Nov 99	Makes a great one-stop digital recording solution that will work well in a starter system.	Yes	CD/MD	L	L	No
JVC XM-R700SL	250	★★★☆☆ Aug 01	Acceptable sound but it needs to trim down before it gets our thumbs up.	Yes	MD	O/L	-	Yes
Kenwood DMF-3020	180	★★★☆☆ Sep 99	A fair starter deck, but spend more and the benefits are clear to hear.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	O/L	No
Kenwood DMF-5020	279	★★★☆☆ Sep 99	Plasticky build and a sound that is hazy and compressed, lacks detail and passion.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Kenwood DMF-9020S	500	★★★★☆ Oct 99	Top-class MiniDisc sound with serious style, but £300 buys you similar performance.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Marantz DR6000	400	★★★★★ Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 - fine recorder and as a player it's way ahead of its rivals.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Marantz DR-17	1500	★★★★★ Jan 00	Lays to rest the 'good recorders make lousy players' myth: it does both superbly.	Yes	CD-RW/HD-CD	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Philips CDR600	230	★★★☆☆ Sep 01	A budget CD recorder is a laudable concept, but this one has far too many flaws.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O/L	C/L	No
Philips CDR-951	400	★★★☆☆ Apr 01	Decent enough recordings but playback is average. You can get this quality for less.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Pioneer MJ-D508	200	★★★★★ Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Plenty of energy with rock and pop music.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/L	No
Pioneer PDR-609	280	★★★★★ Aug 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Great sonics and fantastic copies.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Sharp MD-MT90H	160	★★★★★ Aug 01	Superb sound and super value. One of the best currently available.	Yes	MD	O/L	L	Yes
Sharp MD-MT877H	230	★★★★★ Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Gorgeous - the designer box you'll want to be seen with.	Yes	MD	O/L	L	Yes
Sony MZ-G750	200	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Looks fab, sounds big and bold and even has a radio. But rivals beat it.	Yes	MD	O/L	L	Yes
Sony MDS-JE770	260	★★★★☆ Oct 01	Makes very good copies from CD and analogue sources but it lacks star quality.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	O/L	No
Sony MDS-JB940	300	★★★★★ Oct 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Makes great recordings and it's a fine playback machine too.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Sony MXD-D4	330	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Fine choice if you're looking for CD and MiniDisc dubbing. A good compromise product.	Yes	CD/MD	O/L	L	No
Sony MXD-D40	330	★★★★☆ Awd 01	Convenient CD player and MiniDisc recorder. Suit space-savers - good rather than great.	Yes	MD/CD	O/L	L	No
Sony MDS-JA333ES	650	★★★★★ Jul 01	Challenges CD-RW for quality of sound, while bringing all the benefits of MiniDisc.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Sony MDS-JA555ES	700	★★★★☆ Awd 00	If you want the best MiniDisc machine, this is it. But lower-cost decks come so close.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
TEAC RW-H500	330	★★★☆☆ May 00	Handy add-on for owners of TEAC Reference 500 systems, but it lacks wider appeal.	Yes	CD-R/CD-RW	O	O	No
TEAC MDH-500i	350	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Stylish, well-built piece of kit - will fit well with the 500 series and other brands.	No	MD	O	O	No
Yamaha MDX-596	229	★★★★☆ Aug 01	Impressive piece of budget kit - if you like a warm sound, you'll like the Yamaha.	Yes	MD	O/L	O/L	No

Digital Audio Receiver?

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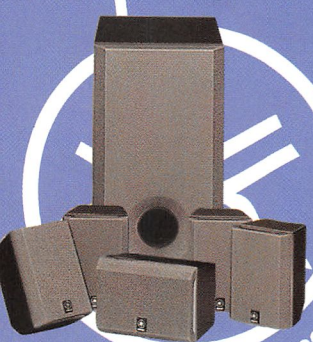

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